

Israelis in Oman for water talks

MUSCAT (R) — An Israeli delegation arrived in Oman on Friday for a Gulf Arab state. Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told Reuters after arriving in Muscat that the visit "is important because it is broadening our horizons and enabling us to reach out to areas we had not reached before." Mr. Beilin, leading his country's team to the Middle East water resource talks due to start on Sunday, was accompanied by Israeli journalists. Diplomats had speculated that Oman might not allow Israeli journalists in. The Israeli team flew to Muscat on an Egyptian plane from Cairo and not as predicted on a direct flight from Israel. Mr. Beilin, who played a key role in negotiating the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal, said he would be holding bilateral talks with Omani officials "about economic options when peace prevails." Arab diplomats see the visit to Oman as breaking new ground for Israel, which has long sought acceptance by suspicious Arab neighbours including Gulf Arab oil states physically remote from the conflict but wielding mighty economic clout.

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Berri arrives today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri arrives in Amman Saturday on a five-day visit during which he will hold talks with His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Abdal Salam Majali and Lower House Speaker Taher Al Massri on bilateral relations, the Middle East peace process and regional developments.

Sources said Mr. Berri "will be received in Jordan not only as speaker of the Lebanese parliament but also as a major national Lebanese leader." They said the programme of the visit reflects the important political dimensions of the visit, Mr. Berri's first to Jordan.

Mr. Berri is leader of the Shite Amal militia which is close to the Syrian government.

His visit to Jordan comes at a time when Jordan's relations with both Syria and Lebanon are growing stronger. The three countries have expressed satisfaction at the level of coordination they have on the peace process.

Sources said the strength of Jordanian-Lebanese relations was demonstrated when the two countries cooperated and exchanged security information to arrest suspects in the assassination of Jordanian diplomat Nafez Al Maayeth in Beirut in February.

U.S. launches probe into Iraq 'friendly' fire

Flights temporarily halted after U.S. planes down own 'copters killing 26

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States on Friday suspended air patrols by combat planes over northern Iraq for one day to reinforce safety procedures that failed to Thursday's shootdown of two U.S. helicopters that killed 21 military officers and 5 Kurdish officials.

President Bill Clinton promised that an investigation of the accidental downing of the helicopters would be completed as soon as possible and all the facts would be made public.

"We are going to stay on top of this, work through it and make a full report to the American people," he said.

Five Americans, five Kurds, three Turkish officers, two British officers and one French officer were killed when the two Blackhawk UH-60 helicopters in which they were flying were shot down by U.S. warplanes Thursday.

Mr. Clinton, speaking with reporters at the start of a media roundtable discussion on health care reform, said he had met with his foreign policy advisers Friday morning to discuss the accident.

He said investigators had reached the site of the calamity and would conduct a "thorough and vigorous" probe of the cause of the friendly fire shootdown. Mr. Clinton said those who were performing

were being given additional safety briefings Friday. AWACS early warning radar planes continued operating over the "no-fly" zone north of the 36th Parallel, said U.S. Defence officials.

Although no attack aircraft were in the air over northern Iraq Friday, the AWACS could call in jets in the event Iraqi aircraft were spotted violating the "no-fly" zone, the officials said.

Defence Secretary William Perry said it would take weeks to sift through the evidence to ascertain why two F-15 fighters shot down the two army helicopters.

In its first official identification of a victim, the defence Department said Seabed Lieutenant Laura Ashley Piper was aboard one of the helicopters shot down.

Neither Washington nor Western powers accused Iraq of being behind the downing, but Iraqi opposition groups who first broke the news said the helicopters were brought down by Iraq.

The political editors' broadcast report, received in Nitro, said: "It seems they were forced to tell the truth because those who were killed in the incident were of several nationalities and the truth could not be hidden. Therefore, their black intentions to involve Iraq in any matter were exposed."

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HORSE RACE: His Majesty King Hussein on Friday presents awards to winners of a 55-kilometre horse race as Her Royal Highness Princess Alia (second from right) looks on (see page 9) (Petra photo)

Jordan sends lone observer to multilateral water talks

King regrets peace process stagnation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan, which is demanding an end to maritime interceptions by a U.S.-led task force monitoring sanctions against Iraq, said Friday it would not fully participate in Arab-Israeli talks on water sharing.

Information Minister Jawad Anaoi told the Associated Press that Jordan on Friday dispatched Ali Ghazawi, a water expert, "to attend as an observer but not to participate in the water discussions."

On Sunday, Arab-Israeli talks on sharing water resources will open in Oman.

Such a gathering is part of Arab-Israeli discussions on future cooperation in the fields of economy, water, refugees, disarmament and environment. They are known as the multilateral phase of the 29-month-old, U.S.-backed Middle East peace process.

They are different from the bilateral negotiations hosted by the United States and involving Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians.

Jordan and the Palestinians have been participating in the multilaterals since they were launched on the fringes of the peace conference that opened in Spain in October 1991 under the coponsorship of the United States and Russia.

Syria and Lebanon have boycotted such discussions, saying they would like to see tangible progress in bilateral negotiations with Israel before they participate in regional cooperation talks.

Last month, His Majesty King Hussein said Amman would not rejoin Middle East peace talks until a U.S.-led task force monitoring sanctions against Iraq eased the interceptions of Jordan-bound vessels.

He said that the U.S.-led warships had escalated their interception of ships bound for Aqaba, causing long delays and enormous losses to the Kingdom.

Officials reject Israeli criticism over Hamas presence in Jordan

By Nermene Murad
By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian officials on Friday dismissed as "political propaganda" Israeli accusations that Jordan was helping the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), which has claimed responsibility for two suicide bomb attacks that killed 12 Israelis during the last 10 days and threatened to launch similar attacks in the future.

"According to our information, the attacks carried out by Hamas inside Israel were conceived, planned and executed in the occupied territories," a senior government official said.

"Thus the accusation that Jordan is helping Hamas is unsubstantiated and does not contribute positively to the

peace process," the official told the Jordan Times.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Thursday accused Jordan of helping Hamas although he did not say how Jordan was extending that help.

"Israel cannot tolerate the situation of Amman being a paradise for the activities of the Hamas," Mr. Rabin said at a hastily called late-night news conference in Tel Aviv. "I see the need. I and the foreign minister together, to come and say to the Jordan government: This situation is intolerable."

Another Jordanian official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, dismissed the Israeli accusations as politically motivated. "It is ridiculous to say that Jordan is helping Hamas in carrying out these

attacks just because a Jordanian citizen comes out and says my group did it," the official said.

Mr. Rabin also said what the (Israelis) are trying to do is to look for scapegoats outside the occupied territories to blame them for their own frustration."

"Instead of doing that" the official continued, "Israel needs to look closer to home to see that acts of Palestinian violence are in direct response to acts of violence by Israelis against Palestinians. Violence can only breed violence, as the Israelis well know."

Jordanian officials generally believed that Mohammad Nazal, the Hamas representative in Amman, who made the statements claiming responsibility for the attacks against

(Continued on page 5)

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GATT deal signed, but hurdles remain

MARRAKESH (R) — The world's trading nations gathered on Friday to sign an historic treaty expected to inject new dynamics into the global economy.

Among the first to put their signatures to the accords at the start of a four-hour ceremony in this oasis city's Moorish-style conference centre were ministers from Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh and Belgium.

In all, over 100 countries were to endorse the pact, concluded last December after more than seven years of tortuous negotiations in the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

But apart from a mounting debate on whether some of the world's least-developed states

actually stood to lose from the massive market-opening accord, hurdles still remain before it can be turned into reality.

In key legislatures from the United States to India, there could be fierce opposition to ratification of the GATT treaty, which will subject domestic commercial and business policies to full international scrutiny for the first time.

Non-governmental aid groups, supported by findings of the Economic Intelligence Unit in London, say the big traders — the United States, the European Union and Japan — will gain from the accord while many African states will emerge as losers.

However, the general mood in Marrakesh — chosen to host Morocco's own progress towards a market-based economy.

And in speeches over the past four days, many of the ministers gathered in Marrakesh voiced fears that the major powers would continue

wielding a big stick to their own benefit.

Even squabbling among the top trading powers continued to the last moment. The United States and Japan reported only minor progress in resolving a dispute over Japanese market openings and European Union (EU) states fought among themselves over banana import rules.

To formalise the 26,000-page treaty printed on thick velum paper tied with the blue ribbons, ministers were filing to the front of a vast ochre-coloured hall to sign it at a time.

But although 125 countries were by this week formally associated with GATT's Uruguay Round and invited to Marrakesh, it was not clear exactly how many were present and would put their names to the documents.

NATO jet hit by Bosnia ground fire

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serbs shelled the Muslim enclave of Gorazde on Friday and a French reconnaissance plane flying a mission over the city was hit by ground fire while flying over the Gorazde area Friday afternoon.

The Standard IV-P plane, from the French carrier Clemenceau to the Adriatic Sea, returned safely, according to NATO. The source of the ground fire was not known.

The Serb aggression in Gorazde did not bode well for truce talks in the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale with international mediators and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

Bosnian radio alleged that Serbs were moving up heavy weapons to renew artillery attacks on Sarajevo, which has been mostly quiet since a truce took effect Feb. 10 between the city's Serb besiegers and Muslim-led government defenders.

U.N. officials could not confirm that report.

The earlier NATO air strikes near Gorazde caused little apparent damage, but they infuriated Bosnian Serbs, who severed contacts with the United Nations, started harassing peacekeepers and expelled American journalists from their territory.

President Clinton has

Israelis round up young Palestinians

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel is arresting scores of Islamic activists, most of them youths susceptible to calls for holy war, after two suicide attacks killed 12 Israelis, sources close to Hamas said Friday.

Israel appears to be searching for a way to bait the attacks by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) without jeopardising the peace talks due to lead to a measure of Palestinian self-rule by May.

About 40 men have been rounded up in Gaza City this week, said one activist, speaking on condition of anonymity. Those arrested, most aged between 17 and 22, were not prominent members of the group.

Instead they were impressionable youths, easy to lure with promises of paradise for waging holy war against Israel, including suicide missions, the sources said.

At least five of the activists from the underground armed units, the Izzedine al Qassam, have fled to Egypt, sources said.

Israeli sources said they arrested a top Hamas leader in Gaza, Ghassan Siyam, described as the key logistics planner. His arrest led to the detention of many others.

His brother Adnan denied that the 32-year-old taxi driver was a key Hamas figure, but

said he had been on the run since December when the Israelis first started looking for him.

The arrests extended into the West Bank, where about 20 activists were detained in the region of the northern villages that produced two suicide bombers, residents said.

There was no report of casualties in the rocket attack.

Earlier on Friday a barrage of Katyushas hit northern Israel but no one was hurt, the Israeli army said.

The army ordered northern Israelis to take cover after the dawn attack. Soldiers ordered residents of Kiryat Shmona to take cover in security rooms and underground shelters.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Israel's northern commander, Major-General Yitzhak Mordechai, said the Katyusha attack may have been retaliation by Hezbollah for Thursday's shelling of Sidon, South Lebanon's largest city.

Hezbollah considers shelling of civilian areas by Israeli forces a breach of a U.S.-brokered ceasefire which ended Israel's week-long blitz on South Lebanon last July which killed 150 people.

Geo. Mordechai called the attack on Sidon an apparent mistake carried out by Israel's

(Continued on page 10)

KATYUSHAS hammer Israel-held regions

TYRE, Lebanon (Agencies) — Guerrillas in South Lebanon fired Katyusha rockets into Israel's occupation zone in South Lebanon on Friday, hours after rockets fired from Lebanon slammed into the Galilee, security and U.N. sources said.

U.N. sources said one rocket slammed near the zone village of Marwahine, near the border with Israel. It was not immediately known where in the zone the two other rockets hit.

They said three rockets were fired from the vicinity of Kafra and Yater villages just north of the Israeli zone. The pro-Iranian Hezbollah and other groups are active in the area.

There was no report of casualties in the rocket attack.

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(Continued on page 10)

minority Tutsi ethnic groups.

The army and the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) were firing rockets and mortar shells at each other near the airport and battled in neighbourhood of Kigali, said U.N. spokesman Moctar Gueye in a telephone interview.

He said, however, that it was the quietest day since the rebel offensive began before dawn Wednesday.

"There are hundreds of thousands of people cut off from anything decent or human," Mr. Gueye said. "People are starving to death in their own houses. Babies have starved to death in their own homes. People are in hiding and cannot find food. Hospitals are not functioning."

"At 6:30 Wednesday morning, they suddenly came into our church. They kicked in the door and immediately opened fire with semi-automatic weapons and threw grenades," the pastor, Danko Litrik, told *Le Monde*.

"Afterwards, they attacked the defenceless people with knives, bats and spears. Only a

(Continued on page 5)

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Most foreigners out of Rwanda; rebels threaten U.N. troops

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — The ethnic bloodbath in Rwanda raged unchecked Friday, with government troops and rebels dueling with rockets and mort

Christopher says U.S. will continue to stand by Israel

WASHINGTON (USIA) — "Israel is an extraordinary place and the Israelis are extraordinary people," Secretary of State Warren Christopher said at an April 14 celebration of Israeli "independence day."

The event at the Israeli embassy marked the 46th anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel.

Mr. Christopher lauded the "remarkable" accomplishments of the Israeli people and noted: "In a sense you have triumphed over history and defeated those forces that have sought to deny the Jewish people security and even the semblance of a normal life."

Turning to current events, the secretary expressed outrage and sadness over the violence to which Israeli citizens continue to be exposed, but he also struck an optimistic note. "There is a real potential for peace in a way that has never existed before, not only with your Palestinian neighbours but with the Arab states as well," he said.

Mr. Christopher also affirmed the strength of U.S.-Israeli ties. "I want to make clear to you in unmistakable terms that the United States will continue to stand with Israel," he said. "We believe in the idea of Israel, and we have an unshakable commitment to your security and well-

being."

Following is the official text of Mr. Christopher's remarks, as prepared for delivery:

"I'm honoured and delighted to be here this evening to help you celebrate the 46th anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel. Above all I feel a real sense of pride in being associated and identified with this occasion. Israel is an extraordinary place and Israelis are extraordinary people.

"You are a nation of doers; and what you have done and accomplished over the past four decades — in the face of extraordinary adversity — is a remarkable testament to your special qualities. You have succeeded in building a remarkable democracy, absorbed Jews from all over the world, and become world leaders in high technology. And you have managed to achieve all of this while preserving your humanity and your sense of justice. In a sense you have triumphed over history and defeated those forces that have sought to deny the Jewish people security and even the semblance of a normal life."

"Yet there are still challenges to be overcome. I wish I could say tonight that Israel was fully at peace on this independence day, that terror had stopped and that Israelis could

feel a real sense of security every day of their lives. I feel both outraged and saddened here tonight that Israel's citizens are still exposed to the terror of extremists who want to deny Israel that security. No nation should have to live this way."

"At the same time, there is a real potential for peace in a way that has never existed before, not only with your Palestinian neighbours but with the Arab states as well. We will push the process of reconciliation that must succeed if peace is to be sustained. And we know we have a very strong and determined partner in Israel.

"First, Israelis want peace; in addition to your search for security, the search for peace has been your highest national priority. Moreover, Israelis are courageous and determined enough to stay the course for peace; these qualities have been among your greatest national assets. I am convinced that you will not allow extremists on either side to derail the negotiations, to defeat your purpose, and to shape the future.

"Finally, I want to make clear to you in unmistakable terms that the United States will continue to stand with Israel."

The recommendation was made by a panel of three commissioners.

U.N. readies first Iraqi compensation awards

GENEVA (R) — The United Nations said on Friday that experts had recommended a total of \$3 million in awards to compensate a first set of 1,100 victims of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The governing council of the U.N. Compensation Commission will rule on the experts' recommendations at its next session, to be held in Geneva from May 24-27.

Payments are expected to be made to this priority group of victims around July, according to U.N. and diplomatic sources.

A U.N. statement said the 1,100 claimants, from 18 nations, were among 5,000 individuals who have filed claims in the so-called "B" category for serious injury or death of a relative resulting from Iraq's 1990-91 occupation of Kuwait. Each claimant is entitled to \$2,500 if he or she can prove serious injury or death of a relative. Each family may receive a maximum of \$10,000.

"Category "B" claims are the first to be considered and concern the most sensitive humanitarian cases — deaths and serious physical and mental injuries," a U.N. statement said.

The recommendation was made by a panel of three commissioners.

Kurtzer: Peace and stability top U.S. Mideast policy concerns

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Peace and stability in the Middle East are among the highest U.S. foreign policy priorities, administration officials told the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee for Europe and the Middle East Wednesday.

"The single largest line item in the administration's proposed international affairs budget for FY 1995 — \$5.25 billion — is for the Middle East peace process," Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Dan Kurtzer said in testifying on US foreign assistance to the Middle East.

"The president's FY 1995 budget request maintains current aid levels to Israel," he said. "These funds play a direct and vital role in promoting our objectives in the peace process."

Also testifying at the hearing chaired by Lee Hamilton (Democrat-Indiana) were Margaret Carpenter, assistant administrator for Asia and the Near East at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and Frederick C. Smith, acting deputy assistant secretary of defense for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs.

In his opening remarks Mr. Kurtzer said that as a result of the September 1993, signing of the declaration of principles between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel, the U.S. pledged \$500 million over five years in assistance to Gaza and the West Bank, including \$125 million in Overseas Private Investment Corporation resources and, in the first two years, \$150 million in USAID-administered programmes. The United States has made an additional substantial contribution to United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)," he said.

"Training to the peace process, Mr. Kurtzer said bilateral negotiations are continuing on all tracks and "multilateral negotiations have moved from essentially academic exchanges to concrete actions." Jordan and Israel have signed a common agenda "representing much substantive agreement" on how to structure their bilateral talks.

"All of these negotiations are directly supported by U.S. foreign assistance," Mr. Kurtzer stressed. "The president's FY 1995 budget request maintains current aid levels to Israel," he said, "and funding is designed to strengthen a free and democratic Israel as well as support our peace process goals."

At the same time, U.S. military assistance supports major weapons system such as the advanced F-15-I and F-16 fighter aircraft, and the purchase of SAAR class missile boats for Israel's coastal protection, and enables Israel to engage in significant military-building beginning in June.

Many of USAID's activities will continue to be implemented through private voluntary organisations in the

region, Ms. Carpenter added, noting that USAID has no personnel presently in the occupied territories.

Mr. Smith, testifying on the administration's FY '95 defense package, said that of the total \$3,111-million requested, \$3,107 million has been requested for "our principal partners in the Middle East peace process, Egypt, Israel and Jordan."

If the bilateral and multilateral peace efforts are to succeed, he stressed, "Israel's security must not be in doubt." While the threat to Israel today is at an historic low, real challenges are ballistic missiles coupled with biological, chemical and nuclear warheads.

"Israel regards Iran and Iraq as its principal long-term strategic threats, and Syria remains a conventional threat to Israel," he noted. "The most immediate threat for Israel are terrorism and the daily violence in the occupied territories as the peace process moves forward."

Mr. Smith said the United States will continue to supplement Israel's military financing through extraordinary authorities, such as early disbursement of funds and the transfer of excess defence articles under the Southern Region Amendment, and the drawdown of up to \$700 million of defence items from Defence Department stocks and war reserve stockpiles.

Iraq urges Turkey to break embargo for its own good

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi Arabia may buy submarines

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia may consider buying submarines to protect its Gulf and Red Sea coastlines, a senior Saudi official said. The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted Deputy Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Abdul Rahman Ben Abdul Aziz as saying "buying submarines is a possibility. But there are many factors involved in having submarines." Prince Abdul Rahman was speaking at a graduation ceremony at a college of naval technical studies on Wednesday, SPA said. He did not say whether Saudi Arabia, which depends for most of its income on oil exports carried by tankers from the Gulf and the Red Sea, had started negotiations to buy submarines. Gulf Arab states, none of which have submarines, expressed anxiety last year at the purchase by their neighbour Iraq of two Russian-made submarines and naval mines. Iraq's relations with Saudi Arabia have been strained this year by disputes over oil production and the number of Iranian pilgrims to the kingdom to perform the Muslim Haj pilgrimage. Prince Abdul Rahman said the location of Saudi Arabia both on the shallow Gulf and the deeper Red Sea meant it might have to operate different kinds of submarines. "We cannot have one submarine for the Gulf and the Red Sea. We have responsibilities for both our eastern and western coasts and this has to be taken into consideration," he said.

Visa on arrival for GCC residents

DUBAI (AP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE), in an attempt to boost tourism and commerce, will relax entrance procedures for white-collar foreigners resident in neighbouring Gulf countries as of May 10. The local press Thursday referred to a cabinet decision allowing expatriate residents in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states to be granted a one month visa on the spot at any entry point. The only exemption is the category of "labourers." Colonel Juma Alman, director of naturalisation department in Dubai, was quoted as saying the move was aimed at boosting the economy by helping businessmen and tourists enter the country. "We want to encourage businessmen to come to Dubai and make use of the many commercial and tourist facilities here," he said. The UAE is member of the GCC, whose other members are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman. Until now, all non-GCC nationals had to obtain visas in advance, part of strict rules to control the foreign work force flooding the region since the oil boom of the 1970s. Only nationals of the six GCC states are allowed entry without visas.

Algeria suspends French newspaper

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia has ordered the suspension of French language L'Independent newspaper for printing articles it said were a threat to public and state security, an official statement said. A Ministry of Communications statement carried by the official Algerian APS news agency monitored in Tunis said the order was effective immediately. A number of newspapers and publications have been suspended since late 1992 under emergency measures adopted in February that year. These give the government powers to suspend publications they deem harmful to state and public security. Algeria's army-backed authorities are battling to contain a surge in violence they attribute to Islamic militants who want to establish an Islamic state in the country.

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Turkey should break the U.N.-imposed trade embargo with Iraq for its own economic well-being, the newspaper of Iraq's ruling Baath Party urged Friday.

The newspaper, Al Thawra, maintained that Turkey "possesses enough moral and legal justification for taking the pre-emptive pressure."

The newspaper's comments, reported by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), were made as Turkish Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Ozdem Sanberk was in Baghdad for talks on the disposal of several million barrels of oil trapped in a pipeline that runs from Iraqi fields to Turkey's Mediterranean coast.

But the news agency report, monitored in Nicosia, did not mention Mr. Sanberk's visit or the talks.

Turkey used to earn up to \$250 million annually from pipeline royalties and has been pressing for the U.N. embargo to be lifted, at least as far as oil exports through Turkey are concerned.

Al Thawra urged Turkey to take the initiative in lifting the embargo in order to return to the level of economic development it had attained when its commercial relations with Iraq were active, INA reported.

"Salvaging the Turkish economy from the deteriorating situation it is suffering from lies in treating the exceptional conditions it is facing as a result of the embargo on Iraq," Al Thawra argued.

The embargo is to remain in place until Iraq complies with the conditions laid down by the United Nations," Mr. Syed Hamid told reporters after their talks.

"We want to see a return of normalcy to the region as we do not want the people of Iraq to continue suffering," said Mr. Syed Hamid, who is the law minister.

Officials said Mr. Sahaf is expected to hold talks with Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and leave for Jakarta on Sunday.

Farhat appeals to U.S. Congress for help in Kuwaiti murder and rape case

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An American citizen of Lebanese origin has appealed to the U.S. Congress for intervention to secure justice for his family members who he says suffered atrocities in the hands of vengeful Kuwaitis immediately after the Iraqi occupation in early 1991.

The family lived in Kuwait for more than 30 years and Ismail Farhat was working for the government when the Iraqis invaded in August 1990.

"Despite considerable risks to their lives, my family members actively worked for the (Kuwaiti) resistance, by channelling money, food and supplies to resistance fighters to Kuwaiti citizens and non-Kuwaiti citizens alike during the Iraqi occupation," Mr. Farhat wrote in his appeal to the U.S. Congress. A copy of the appeal was made available to the Jordan Times.

Following the liberation of the emirate, when the restored emir regime proclaimed martial law, "thousands of non-citizen Kuwaiti residents were detained indefinitely and incommunicado, forcefully interrogated, tortured, denied due process (of the law) and deported in direct violation of well-defined laws to the contrary," said the appeal. "This is the context in which the Kuwaiti government ordered and executed the orders to assassinate my family."

"If the Kuwaiti justice system were to fully investigate and prosecute all the guilty parties involved in the Kuwaiti government crimes against the Farhat family, I feel confident that the trail of guilt would lead to the highest levels in the government of Kuwait," Mr. Farhat told the lawmakers.

Arguing that the Kuwaiti

courts always gave preferential treatment to Kuwaiti citizens regardless of the nature of the crime involved, and citing cases to support this argument, Mr. Farhat wrote that the government of the emirate had sought to shield high-level officials by singling out Mr. Omairi for trial after heavy pressure was brought to bear upon the regime by an international campaign waged by the Farhats.

The State Security Court found Mr. Omairi guilty of two premeditated murders and one attempted murder, but handed down less than the maximum sentence of death. Mr. Farhat pointed out. Nor was the former Kuwaiti police officer tried for the killing of his wife, Naimat, a former police officer who was killed in the head in the March 2, 1991, incident at the Farhat residence in Kuwait.

The case is well-known in the Gulf and elsewhere but is the only one involving human rights abuse by Kuwaitis following the Gulf war.

The case is of high significance to regional and international human rights organisations which have picked up the cause of the hundreds of non-Kuwaitis, including Jordanians and Palestinians, who were killed, raped, detained, tortured or expelled from the emirate following the Gulf crisis.

"We bow in respect to Mr. Farhat, who almost single-handedly fought the battle and is continuing to fight despite a strong Kuwaiti campaign to discredit him and bury the case," said a human rights activist who said his organisation was awaiting a final judgement after appeal in the Farhat case before filing cases of rights violations against the Kuwaiti gov-

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

1739 Le Monde Sous Marin
1838 Dossier De La Semaine
1938 News in French
2038 News in English
2138 Charlie Chaplin
2238 Fresh Prince Of Bel Air
2138 The Letter-Box Show Tel: 654932
2238 Church of Nazareth Tel: 673691
2238 Feature film: "A Doll's House"

PRAYER TIMES

Fajr (6:05) (Sunrise) Dhuhr (12:36)
Asr (16:12) Magrib (19:05)
Isha (22:29)

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swiflet, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632795
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590, Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440, De la Salle Church Tel. 661757, Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Relative warm weather conditions will prevail with winds becoming northwesterly moderate. In Amqa, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min/Max. temp.: 15 / 28
Amqa: 22 / 36
Deserts: 13 / 51
Jordan Valley: 20 / 35
ZARQA: Dr. Farhat Aqrawi: 25/725
Khashif pharmacy: 985417
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amqa

sun 30, Acqua 37 Humidity reading: Amqa 12 per cent, Amqa 18 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Commr 637111
Civil Defense Department 661111
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Dr. Yousif Radied 896301
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Jordan Electricity Authority 816105
Electric Power Company 636381

HOSPITALS

RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200
Dra Al Nufus Hospital (02)247100
AQABA: Prince Haya Hospital (03)314111
AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity J. Amra 644281/65
Alich Maternity J. Amra 644241/12
Jabat Amman Maternity 644262
Melha, J. Amman 656140
Palestine, Shmeissi 656171/4
Shmeissi Hospital 669151
University Hospital 848458
AJ-Yarmuk Hospital 667221/9
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Home News

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1994 3

Jordan, Austria discuss setting up education and information exchange programmes in linguistics, foreign language training

By Ian Atalla

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An education and information exchange programme in linguistics and foreign language training currently under discussion between Austria and Jordan would aim at eliminating some of the inefficient English language teaching methods which cost the Arab World billions of dollars annually in mistakes and failures," according to Dr. Robert de Beaugrande, professor of English at the University of Vienna.

The proposed initiatives would also aim at bringing the Arabic language and its colloquial dialects out of their state of relative inaccessibility to foreign students and trainees, he said.

Dr. de Beaugrande spoke to

the Jordan Times on Thursday after having accompanied Austrian President Thomas Klestil's official state visit to Jordan.

He said that the proposed programmes came as one step in underlining the current strengthening of relations between the two countries, "which come out of the fact that our country wants to take a firm and visible stand against the deepening divisions of North versus South and West versus East that have led to lamentable outbreaks of resentment and violence in all parts of the globe."

Dr. de Beaugrande said that in his view, traditional western methods of foreign language training "have not been sensitive to the context of the Arab World and the Arabs suffer a lot from imprinting these

teaching methods uncritically."

The result, he said, was an unavailability in the Middle East of competent English speakers to fill positions in the civil services and industry, "not to mention the human cost to those people who have not been trained properly in English."

On the other side of the coin, he said, it had been proven that current traditional language teaching methods are not successful in teaching Arabic as a foreign language.

"The Arabic language is exploding onto the world stage, and it simply cannot continue to be taught with inefficient methods."

Dr. de Beaugrande said that the programmes under discussion between Jordan and Austria could involve the University of Vienna and Infoterm, the linguistics department of the Austrian government's Bureau of Standards.

Although the overall programme was still in the initial stage of discussion, he said, it would include among other things cooperation with Jordan's military to help improve its departments responsible for foreign language training and translation, the establishment of a studies database on various Arabic dialects spoken in Jordan, and the offering of facilities in the University of Vienna's languages and linguistics departments for senior Jordanian academics and military personnel to conduct Ph.D. and post-doctorate studies there.

Dr. de Beaugrande added that after the finalisation of the outline of the proposed programmes, they would be presented to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, and "we hope that these programmes will be under his patronage."

"The eventual scale of the over-all programme depends no how well it runs," he said, adding that if the initial results showed promise, the programme could eventually be expanded.

He added that Infoterm might also be aiding the Arab League in the implementation of its recent decision to push for "the standardisation of Arabic terminology," and Austria hoped to open up similar academic and intellectual exchange initiatives with Palestinians after their realisation of self-government.

Brother stabs sister for alleged adultery

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 20-year-old Zarga woman Thursday was stabbed by her brother and was listed in critical condition, a Civil Defence Department (CDD) report said.

The woman, identified as Khawla A. K., had a deep wound in the neck and another in the chest inflicted by her brother who surrendered to police immediately after the incident, a CDD official told the Jordan Times.

The official said the victim, the mother of a two-year-old child, was married and divorced twice.

The reason for her second divorce, the official maintained, was alleged adultery.

In his testimony to police and CDD officials, the brother, who was not identified, said his family asked him to kill his sister to "cleanse the family honour." He told police he took a knife, went to his house where his sister was staying and stabbed her.

Zarga Military Hospital declined to release details of the woman's condition, but the CDD official told the Jordan

Times that the woman is expected to survive. Zarga police declined comment on the crime.

Man seriously hurt in lift fall

A 20-year-old man was seriously injured Thursday when the elevator he was riding free-wheeled for three stories, a police report said.

Akram M. was in the elevator of one of the factories — whose name was withheld by police — he works in when the accident occurred.

The man was rushed to Al Quds Hospital for treatment. Hospital sources told the Jordan Times that the victim suffered brain contusions, skull fractures and shoulder dislocation.

"There is a 20 per cent chance that the man would survive because his body is not accepting any medicine," the attending nurse said.

He added that the man is in a coma, and it might be months before he wakes up.

Police reports indicate that the family are filing a law suit against the factory owner.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Pakistani official arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Pakistani Minister of Industry and Industrial Production Muhammad Asghar arrives here today on a four-day visit to Jordan for talks with senior Jordanian officials on economic and commercial cooperation. Mr. Asghar will hold talks with senior officials at the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company on scopes of cooperation in the area of exporting phosphates to Pakistani markets.

Race to mark Crown Prince Hassan award

AMMAN (Petra) — Crown Prince Hassan's Award Office will April 29 organise a 10-kilometre race to mark the 10th anniversary of the award, according to director of the office Samar Kildani. At a press conference held Friday, Ms. Kildani said the race will start at 9:00 a.m. from the Marriott Hotel and end at the hotel after passing through the 3rd, 4th and 5th circles, in addition to Al Hussein Sport City circle. A total of 1,000 youths will be taking part in the race, she said.

New commemoration stamp to be issued

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has decided to issue special stamps marking the third Hashemite reconstruction of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in occupied Jerusalem. The stamp will be issued Monday to coincide with a special celebration held to mark the completion of the reconstruction work, which was carried out at the expense of His Majesty King Hussein. The new stamp will be of three denominations.

WHAT'S GOING ON

LECTURES

★ Lecture with slides entitled "Brancusi At the Source of Modern Sculpture" by art critic Nelly Lama at Darat Al Faoum of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabel Luweibdeh at 5:00 p.m.

★ Lecture entitled "Arab Economy and the Challenges of Peace" by former Egyptian Minister of Economy Dr. Mustafa Al Sa'ad at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabel Amman at 6:00 p.m.

CONCERT

★ Concert by the Jordan Music Academy at the main theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Art exhibition by artist Latifa Yousef at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition by artists Afia Ammoura, Dorothy Mango, Hind Nasar, Janine Saaf, Lucy Marto, Tote Wegelin at Abd'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.) (Tel. 819861).

★ Exhibition of calligraphy at Orlifi Art Gallery, (Tel. 826532).

★ Electronics and electric exhibition at the World Centre for Exhibitions, University Road (10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.) (Tel. 662609).

★ Paintings exhibition by Jordanian and Lebanese artists Jamil Khamsi and Jihad Abu Suleiman at Afia Art Gallery (9:30 - 13:30, 15:00-18:00) (Tel. 639303).

★ Graphics exhibition by artist Burhan Saleh Mohammad at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).

★ Book exhibition at the International Exhibition Centre, University Road.

★ Engraving exhibition by artist Jean-Pierre Pincemin at the French Cultural Centre.

Report studies condition of women in occupied territories

'Status of Palestinian women hinges on structure of future state'

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

the future of women under Palestinian rule vary in the report from sceptical to hopeful and optimistic.

Mrs. Ra'fat expressed her "fears" of the effect of the "friendly" communication bridges between the PLO mainstream faction Fatah and the Islamist fundamentalists Hamas. She told the Jordan Times that women will be the losing sector if any joint leadership of the two factions were established.

She added that women unions in the occupied territories are failing behind in securing women's rights and that pressure groups should now prepare themselves for a social struggle in lobby for fundamental changes concerning women's status in the area.

"During the uprising, women were active in opposing the Israeli occupation,"

but "this active participation was short lived. After a while, women were dragged back into their homes to be married or attend to their family members' needs," she added.

This social discrimination manifested itself in several areas: Palestinian women, for example, were denied equal opportunities in education and work.

The report speculated that the number of educated men was much larger than that of women, and that working women were much fewer than working men.

Moreover, the West Bank and Gaza witnessed limited advancement in women's social status due to the structural change the Palestinian community underwent after the occupation. These changes took place mainly in the cities and were not significant enough to effect the "embedded backward social traditions," charged the report.

Working women do not assume leading positions in institutions and they were not part of decision making in any economic or political organisation regardless of their qualifications, says the report. It added that this was largely caused by the women's organisations' primarily political orientation.

"The political predominance over women's activities is a 'two-edged sword' that included women in national concerns, but distracted them from identifying with the social discrimination against them," concluded the report.

Suppositions concerning

that prevents women from improving their status in the occupied territories. According to the report, women suffer the most from poor living conditions, which is a deliberate policy adopted by the Israelis to distract Palestinians from engaging in political activities. This strategy, however, failed to keep men away from political resistance to occupation, which, in many cases, left women responsible for making a living to feed and educate family members. Despite this burden women carried, they were still underpaid for the labour they did and not recognised as family supporters because of the nature of their work which was mainly restricted to embroidery, housework and other domestic chores.

Observers maintain that women's status in the coming stages are dependent on the nature of the structure of the Palestinian state. There are many doubts concerning the nature of the political orientation of the long awaited state and the role of women in it.

A PLO member who refused to be identified told the Jordan Times that it would not be easy to disregard women's role in the Palestinian-Israeli struggle and that their participation as a constructive force to build the country's economic forces is much needed, which, in turn, gives women the chance to form society to acknowledge them as responsible and constructive citizens with rights that cannot be dismissed.

The number of universities increased and avenues for education expanded, but the society still dictated the "proper" field of academic specialisation for women, which explains why most college graduates are women, while university graduates are predominantly men, says the report.

Poverty is another problem

that all boils down in the structure of the Palestinian state; on the one hand, it might be progressive and democratic and on the other, it could be a traditional, conservative state like all other Arab countries," said the Palestinian official.

He added that women's assumption of a better status in society is contingent on the progress of all democratic and progressive forces in the Arab World, and their ability to achieve leading positions to enable them to "steer society in the right direction."

Antiquities Department retrieves more illegally excavated artefacts

By Elias Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Close cooperation between the Department of Antiquities and the Public Security Department (PSD) has led to the retrieval of yet another batch of artefacts illegally excavated in southern Jordan.

Director Safwan Al Tell told the Jordan Times that teams from the Department of Antiquities in the Karak region have alerted the local police about illegal excavations going on in Bab Thara and Ghor Safi as well as in Wadi Arba.

Investigations led to the arrest of three suspects whose homes were searched and from whom artefacts were retrieved by the department, said Dr. Tell.

Director Safwan Al Tell told the Jordan Times that teams from the Department of Antiquities in the Karak region have alerted the local police about illegal excavations going on in Bab Thara and Ghor Safi as well as in Wadi Arba.

He added that through illegal excavations, these people are trying to make personal profit but they are impeding organised and legal digging by the Department of Antiquities.

Brigadier Fayez Qahlan, Karak police department director, was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that a special police squad had been closely cooperating with the Department of Antiquities and conducting surveillance of the movements

of the suspects before they made the move to capture them.

Dr. Tell said that the department has limited powers and can by no means provide full protection to more than 100,000 archaeological sites found in various parts of the country.

He said that according to Jordanian laws, no one except the Department of Antiquities has the right to excavate for artefacts, gold or any other treasures. Also according to the law, nothing found by accident should be concealed from the department or destroyed, he added.

He urged the government to help spread awareness among the public, especially students,

as to the importance of the artefacts which, he said, stands out as witness to the various cultures that flourished in this part of the world throughout history.

Jordanian Islamic council has plan for Afghan peace

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An umbrella organisation for Islamic Organisations and Societies in Jordan has appealed to all warring factions in Afghanistan to suspend their war for control over the war-torn country and adopt a plan to restore peace in the

country and an undertaking by Afghanistan's neighbours that they will not allow the smuggling of arms or armed fighters into Afghanistan from their territories.

Except for a four-day ceasefire during its visit to Kabul, the Mecca mission achieved little.

The Jordanian council proposed that a 30-member committee of Islamic scholars and intellectuals be formed by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) from its member countries to help form a transitory government of "non-political" Afghans to run the country for a period of 10 months.

It was not immediately clear whether the Jordanian government, which has been calling for national reconciliation in Afghanistan, supported the call by the Council of Islamic Organisations in Jordan.

The council statement, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times, said all Muslims of the world were "deeply pained" by the violence in Afghanistan and called for an immediate end to all hostilities.

The bloodshed in the country "violates all principles of Islam and God's teachings as revealed to us in the Koran," said the statement, citing a Koranic saying which says "anyone who purposely kills a believer is destined for hell."

After ousting the communist-supported regime, the Afghan factions are fighting among themselves for power. Renegade Prime Minister Guluddin Hekmatyar, supported by Uzbek warlord Rashid Dostum, is waging a battle in Kabul since Jan. 1 in a bid tooust President Burhanuddin Rabani.

Mediations efforts have miserably failed, including a reconciliation agreement signed by all Afghan factional leaders in Mecca last year. The Pakistani-brokered agreement was guaranteed by Saudi Arabia.

The fighting, which includes indiscriminate shelling and bombing of residential areas of Kabul, has claimed the lives of several thousand and displaced tens of thousands of Afghan residents of the capital.

A recent U.N. mission headed by former Tunisian

Mr. Subeibi, secretary-general of the Council of Islamic Organisations and Societies in Jordan, said the proposal was not in all Afghan factional leaders, the OIC and the governments of Pakistan, Iran and Tajikistan, the three neighbours of Afghanistan.

Mr. Subeibi was quoted by the Associated Press as saying that a copy of the proposal was also sent to the Jordanian Foreign Ministry and that his organisation was ready to dispatch a delegation of five or six members to follow up on the proposal if it was found acceptable to the warring Afghan leaders.

There was no immediate response to the proposal from the Afghan groups, which continued their bitter battle, claiming more lives and wounding hundreds in the battered Afghan capital.

Most leaders of the Afghan rebel groups are known to be hostile towards Jordan because of the Kingdom's firm position during the 1980-90 resistance battle against the Soviet occupation that national reconciliation was the best solution for the Afghan conflict.

During the conflict itself, Jordan, upon the request of the former Soviet Union, played a major role in arranging peace talks between the government and the rebels as well as meetings between Soviet representatives and Afghan factional leaders.

Jordanian mediation was seen as instrumental in convincing the late Pakistani president, Mohammad Zia Ul-Haq, an ardent supporter of the rebel groups, to see the wisdom in seeking a negotiated end to the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan during talks with Moscow's representatives in Geneva in the late 80s.

Workshop on proper use of irrigation water and chemicals to be held

AMMAN — With the international and local awakening on the environmental problems concerning water and agriculture, the Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Near East (CARDNE) in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) — Regional Office for the Near East — is holding a workshop to tackle the issues of the already scarce and polluted irrigation water and the abusive use of agro-chemicals and pesticide in producing more crops.

The workshop will take place in Amman from April 25 to April 28, 1994. Participants from Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey are expected to attend the workshop in addition to representatives from the FAO headquarters and Near East Regional Office, the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development and the centre.

Experts and decision makers from the water, agriculture and extension fields will present papers on the over-pumping of the underground water, overuse of water in irrigation practices, soil and water salinity, soil degradation, desertification, soil and water pollution as a result of improper use of agricultural chemicals, man and animal poisoning, lack of proper farm management and lack of national agricultural policies.

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Self-reliance for south

IT WAS a case of self-reliance at its best when three major Jordanian companies operating in southern Jordan took up the challenge posed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to turn their "charity programmes" in southern regions of the country into economically productive projects. The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), the Arab Potash Company (APC) and the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) are now spearheading the creation of a JD 1 million "development fund" to finance a new venture, known as the South Development Company (SDC), for the purpose of alleviating economic suffering in the south of the country. Crown Prince Hassan's initiative, and the positive response by JPMC, APC and JCFC to it, are indeed effective and timely in view of the continuing economic recession in the southern region and the relatively high unemployment rate in that part of the country.

Today marks the first day when the board of directors of SDC will meet to give shape to some of the preliminary projects that are expected to be launched immediately. Where we may disagree with the organisers though is over the mistaken belief that the projects for the south need to be profit oriented. Given the experience of some of the other projects of self-reliance elsewhere in the country and their success in market products, there is no reason not to expect a similar performance by the job-creating projects in the south.

Still the first order of business should be to solve, in part at least, the water problem in the south. There can be no way to develop the area without first addressing the shortage of water there. Much talk had been devoted to constructing dams and reservoirs. Even more talk was devoted to deploying wind and solar energy. But, unless and until the dual problem of water and energy are addressed all good-intentioned plans to reconstruct the south would remain pious thinking. The building of the infrastructure of the south calls for new major efforts by the country as a whole. Hopefully the ongoing plans to help the south help itself could in due course turn most attention to these infra-structure considerations. Then and only then, could the south stand on its own two feet.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST IN Al Ra'i commented on the Wednesday suicide bomb attack in which six Israelis were killed at a bus terminal in northern Israel by saying that it came as a natural reaction to the continued atrocities committed by the Israeli troops and settlers against the Palestinian civilian population. The Israelis must realise that neither the occupation of Arab land nor the complete sealing of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip can ensure security for the Israelis, said Tareq Masrawi. The land where the atrocities are being committed against the Palestinians is Palestinian and not Israeli land, and the only places desecrated by the Israelis are those that belong to the Arabs and Muslims, said the writer. The Israeli soldiers and the Jewish settlers can by no means remain free to kill Arabs at will, demolish their homes and evict families from their homes without having to account for their action, said the writer. He said that continued violence can only breed violence and counter attacks and retaliations that are bound to cause more sufferings for both sides.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily criticised the Water Authority for not fairly distributing water to the inhabitants of various districts of Amman. Nazih said that while certain parts of the capital are supplied by more than they need of water supplies, other areas, like the district of Hay Nazzal, suffer for many days at a stretch without a drop of water. It is true that sometimes water is stopped because of maintenance work on the networks but since the water supplies continually and for many days fail to reach whole districts, something terribly wrong must exist with the water distribution system, said the writer.

JORDANIAN PERSPECTIVE

Campaign must be launched to assert Arab rights in Jerusalem

By Dr. Musa Kellani

THIS WEEK is of special significance to all those who love Jerusalem and care for the historic and religious ties that Arabs and Muslims have with the holy city. Monday marks the formal completion of restoration work at the Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem financed by His Majesty King Hussein. Arab and Muslim representatives are converging on Amman to mark the occasion, which could also witness the beginning of a serious, concerted Arab and Muslim action along with Christians towards ensuring that the rights of Islam and Christianity to Jerusalem are preserved and placed above all Israeli efforts to eclipse them.

It is an occasion to remember that Israel's military control of the city since 1967 has been accompanied with an allow drive by the Zionists to gain international sympathy and support for their claim to Jerusalem as the "eternal and indivisible capital" of Israel. The drive sought to distort history and emphasise that it was only a matter of logic that the "Biblical rights" of the Jews allow them to "reclaim" Jerusalem as their property and that was the end of the affair.

We in Jordan have always been aware of the Israeli campaign and we have always sought to mobilise broad Arab and Muslim efforts to undermine the Zionist drive and reassert the rights of Muslims and Christians to the holy city. Very unfortunately, support for the Jordanian effort has somehow been politically clouded, particularly in terms of Arab backing.

Jordan's ties with Jerusalem precede the union of the two banks of the River Jordan in the 1950s. Modern history shows that the Hashemite family maintained those ties throughout the life of Sherif Hussein Ibn Ali, who, as far back as 1920, took a personal interest in Jerusalem and the Islamic shrines there. It is no coincidence that Sherif Hussein was laid to rest in the holy city. That relationship was maintained by the late King Abdullah who was approached by the then Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Amin Hussein, in 1938 to reaffirm the Hashemite role as the guardian of the Islamic holy shrines in

Jerusalem. The completion of the restoration work at the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem comes amidst ambiguities surrounding the future of the holy city.

On the one hand, Israeli leaders proclaim loudly that there cannot be any compromise over the Jewish state's claim that the holy city is its capital. On the other hand, the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement of Sept. 13, 1993, or the declaration of principles as it is formally known, clearly stipulates that the future of Jerusalem would be open for discussion in the final status negotiations beginning in the third year of autonomy. Hopefully, Israel will live up to its commitment in the agreement.

But that does not address the Hashemite links to Jerusalem. Conveniently forgotten by others in the context of Jerusalem is the fact that when King Hussein severed legal and administrative links with the West Bank, which includes Jerusalem, in July 1968, he did not renounce his role as the guardian of the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem. Despite a severe financial crunch, Jordan continues to pay for the upkeep of the holy shrines through the Awqaf in Jerusalem.

King Hussein's decision two years ago to sell property and raise more than \$8 million to make up for a shortfall in the estimate for restoration work of the holy shrines in Jerusalem came as a reaffirmation of the Hashemite's commitment as guardian of the holy sites in the city.

Beyond this historical role, it is also clear that King Hussein has personal attachments to Jerusalem as his comments throughout the years have indicated. That attachment goes beyond the concept of political or religious sovereignty and is directly linked to the sentiments of a faithful Muslim, for whom Jerusalem represents everything the faith stands for.

The King's vow not to recognise any sovereignty over Jerusalem except that of almighty God's and his call for an inter-faith dialogue to determine the future of the holy city in a way that would ensure that the Muslim and Christian rights

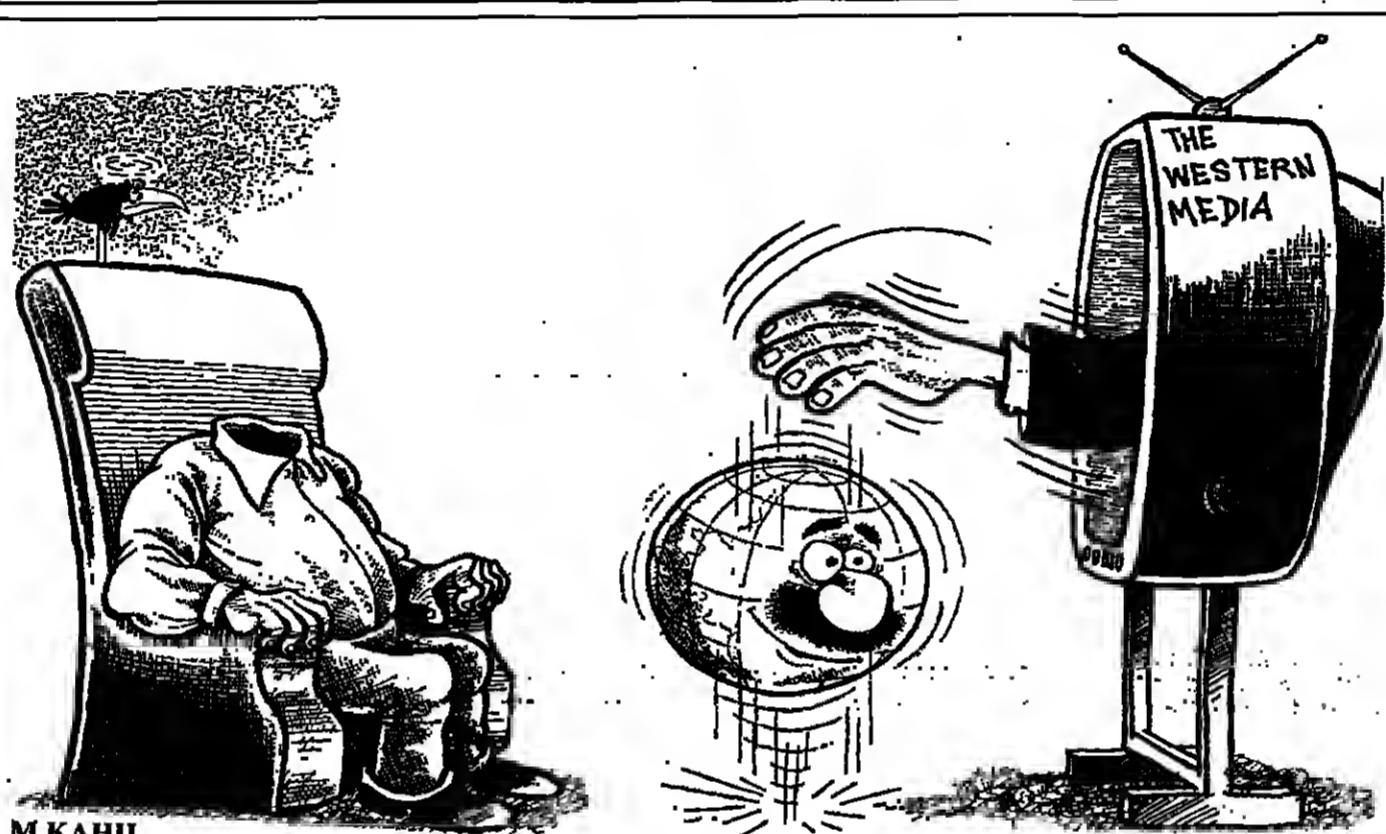
there are ensured, protected, defended and maintained have to be seen in the context of a pragmatic understanding and compassion for the religious faith of others. Nothing more or nothing less can or should be read into it. The King's position symbolises his awareness of the fact that Jerusalem could constitute a major stumbling block in the way of a comprehensive peace regardless of any agreement reached between Israel and the Arabs to settle their fundamental conflict as long as the Jewish state is not willing to listen to reason and learn to respect the religious rights and deep-rooted convictions of others in Jerusalem.

Living up to the leadership behaviour of a family that ruled Mecca, King Hussein has wasted no effort to state his position clearly, he has already covered enough ground in this context for Muslims and Christians to launch joint action to protect their rights in Jerusalem.

The next crucial step is the formulation of a clearly defined path for the Muslims and Christians to go forward with clear understandings of each other's rights and demands to Jerusalem. This path should lead towards a broader dialogue among the three monotheistic religions of the world — Islam, Christianity and Judaism.

No one should be discouraged by the extremist voices coming out from the hardline religious establishment in Israel. For one, any voice that rejects the religious rights and ridicules the convictions of other faiths is in total contradiction of the principles of tolerance and respect that are built-in in all religions. Judaism included. Those extremist rabbis who are up against accepting and recognising any Muslim and Christian right anywhere in the world are only cheating themselves and violating their own faith.

For us in Jordan, the path is clear. Collective action based on solid understanding and tolerance of all religions and rights towards mobilising international public opinion, if necessary, and establishing a mechanism that would irreversibly imbue the Muslim and Christian rights in Jerusalem.



THE WEEK IN PRINT

Palestinian resistance will not end until Israel withdraws from Arab lands

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE LOCAL press in the past week gave prominence to the recent bomb blasts in Israel, the stalled peace process, the siege on Aqaba and a host of domestic issues.

Hamadeh Faraneh, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the car bomb attacks on Israeli positions constitute part of the war of independence waged by the Palestinian resistance forces. The Palestinians do not condone the killing of civilians but the fact is that the resistance had to carry out the attacks in retaliation for the killing of Palestinian civilians since the start of the Israeli occupation.

Mohammed Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that while Israel is commemorating the death of the Jews killed by the Nazis its forces were busily killing innocent Palestinians. And while Israel's ally, the United States, is condemning the Palestinian resistance activities it condones the Jewish state's atrocities against the Arab citizens, he said.

The writer said that despite the closure of the occupied Arab lands following the Afula blast, the resistance reached the heart of Israel and carried out the new attack, which means that there can be no safety for the Israelis as long as they continue to occupy Arab territories.

Commenting on Israeli obstacles to peace, Taher Al Adwan said that the Israelis have allowed April 13 to pass by without honouring their pledge to withdraw their forces from areas in the Arab lands according to the agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The columnist, who writes for Al Dustour, said that to add insult to injury, the Israelis have closed the occupied territories to force mass punishment on the Palestinians for their resistance activities.

The delay in reaching a final settlement, said the writer, is bound to cause more sufferings for both sides.

Echoing the same views, Ibrahim Zarour, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that punishment

tens of thousands of Palestinian families who are being starved and deprived of basic rights can solve nothing for the Israeli government and people. The writer said at least 120,000 Palestinian workers are now deprived of work since they can no more work in Israel and most of them are bound to escalate their attacks against the occupation forces. The writer said that the Palestinian negotiators should give this matter priority in their continued meetings with the Israeli side, which, the writer said, should be held responsible for the lives of all the Arabs under its rule.

In the view of Salameh Ekour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, the PLO should by no means apologise directly or indirectly to Israel for the resistance activities but should demand that Israel pull out its forces from the occupied territories.

The writer said that the Palestinian leadership should realise that the bomb blasts do not impede the peace process but they would rather speed it up because they serve as a pressure on the Israeli government and is a source of power for the Palestinian negotiators.

Referring to the continued blockade on Aqaba, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, said that the envoys of the sanctions on Iraq are exercising unjustified pressure on Jordan to force it to succumb to Israel's wishes. Ali Khalaf said that it is regrettable to say that the Western nations, which impose the blockade, realise Jordan's desperate needs and the country's endeavour to rebuild its economy but still pursue this piracy against the country.

Jordan, said the writer, has all the right to reject such treatment at a time when the Western powers are allowing

Turkish and Iranian ports to conduct free trade without any restrictions.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the siege on Aqaba is clearly intended to force Jordan to sign a separate peace treaty with Israel and to normalise Jordanian-Israeli relations. The paper said that by rejecting this idea, Jordan has thus frozen its participation in the peace process and will continue to challenge any moves to any infringement on its sovereignty. The paper said that Jordan can by no means succumb to pressure and would never accept any compromise over its rights.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab voiced support for the Health Ministry's proposal to enforce a law requiring couples to undergo laboratory tests before marriage. Ahmad Dahab said that the Health Ministry aims to minimise the chance of having handicapped children who, he said, will be a liability to society.

A columnist in Al Dustour urged the concerned authorities to put an end to immoral behaviours on the part of groups of Jordanians who have been acting in a manner that would only distort the image of this country and create seeds of hatred between the Iraqi and Jordanian peoples. Dr. Mousa Kilani, editor-in-chief of the daily said that a group of Jordanians, who went to Iraq lately, have been acting shamefully by committing immoral actions in Baghdad and smuggling Iraqi carpets, ornaments and other valuables. He said this group is exploiting the sufferings of the Iraqi people and is benefiting from the difference in the rate of exchange in the price of the Iraqi dinar and marketing the smuggled items for 50 times their price in Jordan.

Reports that Egypt was discussing a scheme to pump Nile water to Israel raised an outcry this year among Egyptians, who consider the Nile their lifeblood. Cairo promptly denied the story.

Water shortage may trigger next Mideast war

By Yousef Azmeh

MUSCAT — Israel's success in gaining its first ever entry to the Arab Gulf has overshadowed regional talks on a subject that experts say could trigger the next Middle East war: conflict over scarce and diminishing water resources.

Multilateral talks on water launched at the 1991 Middle East peace conference in Madrid reopened in Oman on Sunday after a break of almost six months reflecting lack of progress in direct peace negotiations between Israel and its immediate Arab neighbours.

But experts and diplomats say that even if peace comes to the Middle East, mutual suspicions are so deeply rooted after more than 40 years of war that agreement on water was remote.

Experts and diplomats say that even if peace comes to the Middle East, mutual suspicions are so deeply rooted after more than 40 years of war that agreement on water was remote.

"It is among the region's most intractable problems. I see the seeds of the next Middle East war here," said one expert.

Behind those concerns are stark facts.

World Bank figures show that while an average person needs 1,700 cubic metres of water per year, the volume available in the Middle East and North Africa shrank from 3,430 in 1960 to 1,436 in 1990 and is expected to fall to 667 in the year 2025.

That is a dire prospect in places like Jordan, which would then have only 91 cubic metres per capita, Syria 161 per capita and Israel 311.

"World Bank figures show that while an average person needs 1,700 cubic metres of water per year, the volume available in the Middle East and North Africa shrank from 3,430 in 1960 to 1,436 in 1990 and is expected to fall to 667 in the year 2025."

Egypt eyes with deep suspicion any tinkering with the waters of the Nile by Sudan or African nations as far away as Ethiopia and Uganda, which control the river's headwaters. Cairo's problems with Khartoum are often attributed to Nile problems.

The Gulf states and Libya rely heavily on desalinating sea water which is a very expensive way of meeting their water needs. This is a growing problem for smaller oil producers like Yemen, Oman and Bahrain that do not have much more oil to sell and are already heavily water deficient, experts say.

Lebanon, Syria and Jordan have long suspected that Israel has designs on sources of water in their territories to quench the thirst of an expanding population and maintain its thriving agriculture.

Syria and Lebanon say Israel is holding on to occupied South Lebanon and to the Golan Heights because of water.

Palestinians accuse Israel of stealing their water, leaving their parched lands with only 30 per cent of the resources they had before Israel captured the West Bank in 1967.

Reports that Egypt was discussing a scheme to pump Nile water to Israel raised an outcry this year among Egyptians, who consider the Nile their lifeblood. Cairo promptly denied the story.

"It is getting very acute," one expert said.

6 Economy

Prices at AFM dip

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Trading and share prices at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) fell last week, as uncertainties over the Arab-Israeli peace process caused by the spate of violence in the occupied territories and the missed deadline for an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho took their toll on investor confidence, market figures showed.

The weekly report of the AFM showed that turnover for the week ending Thursday declined to JD 8.5 million dinars from JD 9.9 million of the previous week. The 14.1 per cent drop represented a trend continuing for the third week running.

Innover for the week ending March 24 was JD 18.2 million and for the last week of January was JD 21 million.

The general share price index based on 60 major companies listed at the AFM fell by 3.4 points to 158.4 points, an overall decline of 2.1 per cent. The index stood at 167.8 points on March 24.

The AFM report said 2.8 million shares changed hands during last week, covering 86 companies. Stocks of 12 firms showed gains, while 65 slipped and nine remained stable through the week.

Industrial stock accounted for JD 4 million, or 47.1 per cent of the turnover, followed by commercial banks with JD.

3.6 million, or 42.3 per cent, the services sector with JD 800,000, or 9.4 per cent, and insurance stock with JD 100,000 or 1.2 per cent.

The separate indices related to the sectors also showed a decline in share prices: The index of industrial stock dipped by 4.2 points, reflecting a 2.9 per cent decline, insurance stock by 4.2 points, or 2.6 per cent, commercial bank stock by 2.9 points, or 1.7 per cent, and the services sector index by 1.7 points of 1.2 per cent.

While declines in trading and share prices were expected in April after dividends are distributed or announced, brokers said, the stagnation in the 23-month-old Arab-Israeli peace process was primarily behind the depression at the AFM in the last three weeks.

"Let us not forget that the boom in the market was a direct result of the peace process," said a broker, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with standing AFM regulations.

"Bombs going off here and there and the continued violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip are not exactly very comforting to investors," noted the broker, referring to the April 6 and April 13 bombings that killed several Israelis in Israeli towns and the tightened Israeli crackdown and siege of the two million Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"Many investors were poised for profit-taking when Israel would have shown the

first practical manifestation of a willingness to relinquish land," said the broker. "But, it had also become clear at the beginning of the week that the April 13 deadline would not have been honoured."

April 13 was the date of Israel to complete its withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho to make way for Palestinian self-rule under the accord signed in September. Differences between the PLO and Israel blocked the implementation of the accord.

Israeli and PLO officials now speak of a mid-May deadline.

Another factor contributing to the drop in AFM trading and share prices, considered by many as the best barometer for confidence in the economy, was also the as-yet unaddressed demand for an end to the damaging inspections of all Agaba-bound vessels by a U.S.-led task force patrolling the Red Sea.

His Majesty King Hussein reaffirmed the position last week and also spoke of rising despair and disappointment among the people of the region who wanted to enjoy the fruits of peace.

"There are many at the AFM who take swift advantage of short-term developments to reap gains," said another broker. "For them any shadow over the peace process or the overall economy is just another way to make money."

"But then, that is how all stock markets work."

Rafsanjani: 'Unjust' subsidies must go

TEHRAN (R) — The Iranian government is paying nearly \$15 billion in subsidies each year, much of it to the rich under an unjust system which must be overhauled, President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Friday.

Mr. Rafsanjani singled out the subsidy on energy — a staggering \$11 billion, more than Iran's projected crude oil export revenue this year — and bread as the main items to be tackled, but acknowledged it was politically risky.

"Unfortunately, subsidies which have started at different times in our country have piled up. They have weakened the pillars of the economy and created amazing injustice," he said in a mass prayer sermon broadcast on Tehran radio.

"We reformed many items during the first five-year plan (ended on March 20), but we still have far to go. We should act in a planned way. People should not be put under pressure. It is dangerous," he said.

Saying that some subsidies dated back to World War II, Mr. Rafsanjani took pride that his administration had cut subsidies despite "taking some risk," breaking with the practice of governments bequeathing the burden for their successors rather than taking action and risking popular discontent.

Mr. Rafsanjani's economic reform programme has run into criticism in parliament. Deputies postponed debate on the second five-year plan for 12 months and voted down pro-

posed fuel and electricity price rises for the year started March 21.

That means motorists can fill up for just over \$1 for another year, driving on some of the world's cheapest petrol.

Mr. Rafsanjani said the price the government charged for energy covered just a tiny fraction of the cost and the rich who consumed more energy benefited most.

Domestic fuel and electricity consumption amounted to 1.4 million barrels per day (b/d) of oil plus natural gas equivalent to 800,000 b/d of oil, he said.

"That is about 11 billion at today's oil price... we spend that without earning anything in return," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

By comparison, the French government earned \$40 billion in taxes on importing a similar amount of oil, he said.

The bread subsidy — part of a 6.2 trillion rial (\$3.5 billion) list set up took one-fifth of the government budget this year — was unjust because it applied only to urban dwellers, the president said.

He said he had no qualms about some subsidies, such as 626 billion rials (\$360 million) for agriculture and 400 billion rials (\$230 million) for upkeep of families of martyrs of the Islamic revolution and the Iran-Iraq war.

Other items, notably 210 billion rials (\$120 million) for the hajj, the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, were debated, he added.

Lustre still lingers on Lebanon's gold trade

BEIRUT (R) — Postwar Lebanon may no longer be the centre of the Middle East gold trade but it still retains a substantial position in the region's gold dealing, Beirut dealers say.

With no taxes or other restrictions on the import and export of gold bars to and from Lebanon, Beirut remains a very attractive market, mainly to Arab dealers, they say.

"We are not what we were in the 60s," dealer Farouq Tabbara told Reuters. "But our position is definitely not weak, it is acceptable."

Dealers estimate that total weekly sales range between 400 and 1,000 kilograms of gold bars.

They import the gold from Switzerland and add \$2.25 per ounce on the price fixed in London.

Half the gold goes directly to exporters and the rest to Lebanese jewellers who also export most of their finished products, the dealers said.

The biggest customers are Syria, Jordan and Gulf Arab states followed by Turkey.

The market is relatively small compared with the golden days before civil war broke out in 1975, when dealers estimate that 500 kilograms of gold was traded every day.

Reasons for the decline include postwar impoverishment causing a drop in local jewellery purchases and the continued absence of foreign tourists, dealers say.

But the main reason is that Dubai and Turkey have relaxed import restrictions on gold in recent years and are better placed to compete with Beirut for the regional gold trade.

The Lebanese always preferred the liquidity of foreign currencies, namely the U.S. dollar, to gold," dealer Michel Bassouli said.

He said the market had been more active during some periods of the 1975-90 war when there was "lots of war money" in the country from drugs and arms sales.

Paris Club agrees \$8b Polish debt cut

PARIS (R) — The Paris Club of Western government lenders said Friday it had agreed to cut Poland's \$34 billion official debt by \$8 billion.

The decision, made at a meeting on Thursday by club representatives, implements the second half of a 1991 deal which effectively cuts Poland's debt to the Paris Club by 50 per cent.

"They have decided to grant Poland the additional debt reduction linked to this second stage, bringing the overall debt reduction under the agreement to 50 per cent in net present value terms," the French economy ministry said.

Jan Wojnowski, a spokesman for the Polish finance ministry, said the decision was made following consultations with the International Monetary Fund. The fund's approval of Warsaw's compliance with a standby loan agreement for 1993 was one of the conditions for granting the reduction.

The IMF had already approved Poland's economic performance in 1993 and its budget plan for this year, which were also conditions for the second half of the Paris Club debt reduction. Mr. Wojnowski said a debt-reduction deal with Poland's commercial creditors in March also eased the way for the Paris Club.

The Paris Club agreed to halve some \$34 billion of debt owed by Poland to foreign governments in April 1991 — granting generous terms previously reserved for only the poorest developing countries.

Poland, the first eastern European state to free itself from communist rule, argues that the debts were accumulated through the mismanagement of the communist rulers.

The French economy ministry, which acts as secretary to the Paris Club, said the deal's success would, like other club deals, depend on Warsaw winning similarly generous terms from its commercial bank creditors.

It said the club "reserves the right to review this decision in the light of the implementation of the agreement in principle reached on March 10, 1994, between Poland and the working party for commercial banks debt negotiations."

After three years of haggling, a package was finally agreed by commercial banks on March 10, cutting Warsaw's \$13 billion debt to them by 42.5 per cent. The Paris Club briefly deferred a decision on the second branch of its deal pending checks that the commercial banks' package was as generous as its own.

Dollar continues to trade in relatively narrow ranges

This report by Naser Nasrullah, private client group, Merrill Lynch-Dubai, analyzes movements and trends of key world currencies. Prices are given as of Wednesday, April 13, 1994.

Overview

Fundamental View: The dollar continues to trade in relatively narrow ranges against both the yen and the Deutsche mark, frustrating both bulls and bears alike. Lackluster U.S. economic data on retail sales for March has undercut the dollar, even though it no longer holds much of an interest rate disadvantage relative to the Deutsche mark. The dollar should eventually rise further against the Deutsche mark as German interest rates decline by more than expected.

Japan's political uncertainty seems unlikely to weaken the yen, which should remain strong as part of U.S. policy to boost exports and narrow Japan's huge current account surplus. We maintain our 12-month targets of JPY/USD 95 and DM/USD 1.80.

Technical view: The U.S. dollar index rallied 0.7% last week, despite the fact that the greenback was only able to post gains against three of the six currencies that we monitor. However, those three were important: The Deutsche mark, the Japanese yen, and the Swiss franc. Put/call ratios for the dollar are oversold, and short term momentum is constructive. This suggests that the rally of recent days has further to go. Medium term momentum still has a downward bias, but is showing signs of bottoming.

All of this suggests that the underlying February-April corrective pattern is coming to an end. The inability, so far, to break 92.80 support further adds to the prospects for a bottom. Resistance at 95.50-95.90 is important in the sense that a rally through that range would allow for a test of the February high (97.10) and would suggest that the dominant long term dollar uptrend was finally reasserting itself.

Japanese yen

Fundamental view: The dollar continues to trade in a relatively narrow range against the yen. If anything, Hosokawa's resignation may be viewed as bullish for the Japanese economy and the yen if it speeds passage of the fiscal 1994 budget that has been held up by political bickering. Growing expectations that Foreign Minister Hata will become the coalition government's new prime minister do not point to any breakthrough on U.S.-Japan trade relations any time soon, and the U.S. is likely to continue to move towards imposing trade sanctions on Japan, having rejected proposed trade concessions by the Japanese on March 29. As long as that is the case, many market participants may continue to believe that the administration favours yen appreciation as a way of cutting Japan's trade surplus.

We remain neutral on the yen's prospects in the next few months. The yen is still within the 100-to-110 range that both Japan and the U.S. appear content to live with for the time being. Interest rate trends could favour the dollar as the Fed

continues to push up the federal funds rate towards 4% by mid-year, but trade frictions could well heat up ahead of a planned meeting between President Clinton and Japan's next prime minister at the G-7 summit in Naples this July. Longer-term, persistent current account surpluses should keep upward pressure on the yen.

Even if Japan agrees to some market access measures for U.S. companies, we still expect a current account surplus of nearly \$120 billion this year. That should help the yen to continue to trade in the JPY/USD 100-to-110 range for most of this year and we expect it to reach a level as high as JPY/USD 95 by this time next year.

Technical view: The Japanese yen fell 1.5% versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended April 8, making it the weakest currency of the six we most regularly discuss. Sentiment is neutral to near oversold. Short term momentum is peaking. Medium term momentum remains constructive, but it, too, appears to be close to a top. While a test of resistance at 101 JPY/U.S.\$ is still possible, the downside pressures are mounting.

The area around 106.40 is viewed as first support, but it should be noted that it would require a decline through 110 to break a multi-year uptrend line.

Deutsche mark

Fundamental view: The dollar continues to trade in a narrow range against the Deutsche mark. Dollar bulls are emphasising the likelihood that German interest rates will fall by more than expected as monetary tightening by the Fed erases the Deutsche mark's remaining interest rate advantage for short maturities. Dollar bears emphasise the Bundesbank's cautious approach towards monetary easing and the likelihood that the Fed will have to tighten policy only modestly in coming quarters. With no cut in German official interest rates expected until late April or May, the currency market should remain sensitive to economic data from the U.S. for the second quarter.

Our analysts do not expect U.S. growth to slow to less than 4% until the fourth quarter, which suggests to us the prospect of further gradual monetary tightening by the Fed and a gradual appreciation of the U.S. dollar. German economic data is consistent with a flat-to-negative first quarter, pointing to further disinflation ahead.

With German inflation expected to decline 2% or less next year, we continue to look for German short-term interest rates to fall to 4% even as U.S. short-term interest rates rise above that level. We continue to look for the dollar to rise to the DM/USD 1.80 level in 6-months time and to continue to trade around that level in 12-months.

Technical view: The Deutsche mark fell 1.0% against the U.S. dollar last week. Sentiment continues to deteriorate and remains overbought. Short term momentum is weak, but medium term momentum still has an upward bias and has the potential to remain so into late April or early May. All of this implies that higher highs are still possible in coming weeks, but

the currency's rally trend is now mature. With all of this in mind, a rally through 1.65-1.66 DM/U.S.\$ could still be enough to signal a challenge of last October's 1.59 high. Support is at 1.726-1.74, a decline through that range would imply a test of the currency's February low at 1.765. Short term momentum for the mark/yen cross-rate is weak but near oversold, and medium term momentum appears to be in a bottoming process.

We still think that any further weakness in coming weeks could complete a longer term bottoming process and set the stage for an important rally. In that regard, the area near 63.00 is still viewed as both chart and momentum resistance.

Pound sterling

Fundamental view: The British pound continued to strengthen against the Deutsche mark, trading recently at DM/GBP 2.53. We expect the pound to rise to DM/GBP 2.65 in 12 months as short-term DM interest rates fall by 140 basis points compared to little change in sterling rates. The pound should also be supported by a substantial yield premium over German bonds.

We now expect no further reductions in the base interest rate because markets responded unfavourably to the last cut, which was believed to be politically motivated. This upcoming election in May and June would preclude a cut at this time. The pound appreciated against the dollar this week to U.S.\$/GBP 1.47.

We expect the pound to trade at U.S.\$/GBP 1.47 in 12 months as pound appreciation against the DM is roughly offset by DM depreciation against the dollar.

Technical view: The British pound advanced a relatively modest 0.2% versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended April 8. Sentiment remains neutral. The currency remains in its multi-month trading range, and short term momentum appears to be bottoming. However, medium term momentum continues to offer little definition (although there is a slight upward bias). The lower end of the trading range at 1.46 U.S.\$ is support; a break below that would allow for at least a test of the 1993 low near \$1.43 and possibly long term support at \$1.40-\$1.42.

The \$1.50-\$1.51 range is the viewed as first resistance. A rally through second resistance at \$1.55 would set the stage for a challenge of the long term benchmark at \$1.60. The DM cross-rate has rallied to near 2.53 and short term momentum is still constructive; medium term momentum oscillators remain weak. A break below 2.485 would set the stage for a challenge of 2.43-2.44. Resistance is at 2.53-2.56.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY APRIL 16, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Gaining important headway today with the double Moon square to Uranus and Mars isn't going to be easy, especially with unexpected company dropping in uninvited. Avoid that accomplished troublemaker.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A day to look into modern methods and ideas through which to advance more quickly in your career. Be more poised and happy in whatever you do.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Steer clear of persons who like to argue. Take time to study a new project that could mean more abundance and prestige for your mate and you will both be very happy.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Plan how to improve home conditions and be happier from now on. Be more willing to cooperate with others and you will be more successful.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 22) Attend to routine chores early in the day so you will have more time for recreation later. Make new friends today who can be helpful.

AQUARIUS:</b

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET						
HOUSING BANK CENTER, AMMAN - GREEKIAN TELEPHONE: 640170 / 661110						
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD 10/04/1994 - 12/04/1994						
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE CHG.	TD	
ABRA BANK	359,300	189,500	187,500	-1,000		
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	725,200	2,100	2,000	-100		
BANK OF JORDAN	50,147	1,100	1,000	-100		
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	145,921	2,100	2,100	0		
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	26,224	3,240	3,230	-10		
THE BOSCH BANK	164,027	2,000	2,000	0		
JORDAN KOMATI BANK	408,911	1,100	1,000	-100		
JORDAN CLOTH BANK	218,150	2,100	2,100	0		
JORDAN ARAB INVESTMENT BANK	27	4,550	4,550	0		
JORDAN BANKING GROUP	89,552	6,400	6,400	0		
TODAY ISLAMIC BANK	289,641	6,200	6,200	0		
WORLD BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	21,147	1,100	1,100	0		
BUSINESS BANK	27,150	1,100	1,100	0		
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	138,261	2,100	2,100	0		
JOHN LEWIS INTERNATIONAL HOLDING	2,228	6,800	6,500	-300		
ARMED BANK FOR INVESTMENT	534,991	2,000	1,900	-100		
JORDAN BAPTIST CORPORATION/JORDAN PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	214,477	2,000	2,000	0		
JORDAN INSURANCE	4,341	2,100	2,100	0		
JORDAN LIFE INSURANCE	30,178	2,000	2,000	0		
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	40,407	6,000	6,000	0		
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE	23,110	2,100	2,100	0		
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	4,102	2,100	2,100	0		
ARABIC LIFE INSURANCE	5,026	6,910	6,600	-310		
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	199,931	2,100	2,100	0		
SHED DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	27,121	1,100	1,100	0		
JORDAN NIMAH ELECTRICITY	33	6,150	6,150	0		
ARMED INTERNATIONAL UTILITIES	89,494	4,800	4,800	0		
JORDAN MARITIME SHIPPING LINES	21,971	2,000	2,000	0		
JORDAN TOURISM & SPA COMPLEX	1,100	2,100	2,100	0		
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	75,081	6,500	6,400	-100		
REAL STATE INVESTMENT	1,921	1,670	1,600	-110		
THE JORDANIAN INVESTMENT GROUP	4,000	6,000	6,000	0		
UNICOR INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	2,091	1,100	1,100	0		
SHIPPING REPAIR, RENTING & MAINTENANCE	1,430	1,100	1,100	0		
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'A	14,013	12,200	12,000	-200		
UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN HOTELS	48,407	2,100	2,100	0		
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	1,100	2,100	2,100	0		
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	1,100	2,100	2,100	0		
ACTAMONI CO., WATERCOLOR MANUFACTURING	22,101	1,600	1,600	0		
THE JORDANIAN PLASTICS FACTORIES	261,781	2,100	2,100	0		
JORDAN PETROCHEMICALS	20,400	6,000	6,000	0		
THE ARAB POLYESTER	11,800	25,300	26,000	700		
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	29,781	16,100	16,000	-100		
WORLD INDUSTRIES	721	2,100	2,100	0		
THE JORDANIAN COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	18,100	1,100	1,100	0		
THE JORDAN NICKEL MILLS	180,195	14,100	13,000	-1,100		
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	212,102	1,700	2,000	300		
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	4,275	2,000	2,000	0		
THE JORDAN PIPELINE MANUFACTURING	14,100	2,100	2,100	0		
JORDAN PAPER & CARBOARD FACTORIES	3,342	1,540	1,500	-40		
ARAB CHEMICALS INDUSTRIES	1,475	6,500	6,500	0		
DRYERS & REFRIGERATORS	20,372	12,670	18,900	6,200		
DATA INDUSTRIES	10,200	2,100	2,100	0		
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	2,234	5,900	5,400	-500		
SAR AL DINA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	37,561	2,100	2,100	0		
ARAB AL-KHALIDY INTERNATIONAL TRADE	10,100	2,100	2,100	0		
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	2,725	2,000	2,000	0		
FEDERAL INVESTMENT	2,725	2,000	2,000	0		
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	2,100	7,100	7,100	0		
JOHNSON CONTROLS	20,400	2,100	2,100	0		
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	24,279	3,230	3,230	0		
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	32,195	2,000	2,000	0		
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	2,234	5,900	5,400	-500		
JORDAN METALLURGICAL INDUSTRIES	27,561	2,100	2,100	0		
ALADIN INDUSTRIES	10,100	2,100	2,100	0		
JORDAN INDUSTRIES 4 MATCH/JINCO	2,641	4,800	4,800	0		
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRIES	14,972	2,000	2,000	0		
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICALS	20,400	2,100	2,100	0		
JORDAN OILREFINERY-CHEMICALS	24,279	3,230	3,230	0		
JORDAN POTATO CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	42,465	0,230	0,230	0		
RAPIDES INVESTMENT	2,100	2,200	2,100	-100		
INDUSTRIAL NICKEL INDUSTRIES	102,141	5,250	5,250	0		
GRAND TOTAL	7,032,640					

PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD 10/04/1994 - 12/04/1994						
<i>WEEKLY REPORT</i>						
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE CHG.	TD	
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	82,961	1,100	1,100	0		
JORDAN TRADE FACILITIES	128,131	0,800	0,800	0		
JORDAN TRADING & INVESTMENT HOLDING	102,141	1,100	1,100	0		
JORDAN TWENTIETH RESOURCES CO.	91,614	2,000	2,000	0		
NATIONAL CHROMIUM INDUSTRIES CO. LTD	52,969	2,100	2,100	0		
PAINTWORKS TEXTILE & PLASTICS IND. CO. LTD	27,195	1,650	1,650	0		
JORDAN PETROLEUM COMPANY	10,100	2,100	2,100	0		
NATIONAL MULTIFIBRE INDUSTRIES	59,233	2,100	2,100	0		
EL-ZEIN READY MEAL MANUFACTURING CO.	82,715	2,250	3,200	0		
GRAND TOTAL	616,761					

Financial Markets						
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank						
U.S. Dollar in International Markets						
Currency	New York Close Date 13/4/94	Tokyo Close Date 14/4/94				
Sterling Pound	1.4759	1.4756				
Deutsche Mark	1.7090	1.7103				
Swiss Franc	1.4400	1.4415				
French Franc	5,8475	5,8504**				
Japanese Yen	103,30	103,00				
European Currency Unit	1.1328	1.1313**				
USD per STD Euro Opening = 1.0000. 1.0000						
Interest Rates						
Date 14/4/1994						
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin						
Currency	Bid	Offer				
U.S. Dollar	0.7014	0.7060				
Sterling Pound	1.0370	1.0422				
Deutsche Mark	0.4107	0.4128				
Swiss Franc						

S. Africans pick up the pieces after foreign mediation fails

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africans were left to pick up the pieces Friday after foreign mediators failed to get to grips with their country's intractable political problems less than two weeks before historic all-race elections.

"We are on our own now... but them we never really expected anything from mediation," said ANC official Baleka Kgositise, commenting Thursday night's departure of seven mediators led by ex-U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington.

"I really don't know if they should have come to start with," Ms. Kgositise said of the failed mission to bridge the yawning gap between the ANC and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party of Mangosuthu Buthelezi, which is boycotting the April 26-28 elections.

Mr. Buthelezi, who wants virtual autonomy for KwaZulu-Natal in post-apartheid South Africa, effectively scuttled the peace bid by demanding the agenda should include delaying the poll. ANC leader Nelson Mandela and President F.W. De Klerk ruled out any delay.

Dr. Kissinger, announcing the collapse of the mission, told reporters: "Our group was unanimous that at no stage stage and under no circumstances would we involve with the question of the election date."

Ms. Kgositise said she was not aware of any planned political initiatives to try to draw

Inkatha into the elections, which the ANC is widely expected to win.

The collapse has sparked fears of more unrest in Mr. Buthelezi's stronghold KwaZulu-Natal, where 218 people, five Thursday, have been killed in political unrest since a state of emergency was declared in the volatile area on March 31.

More than 10,000 people have been killed in a decade-long turf war in the volatile region, most in clashes between supporters of Inkatha and

free and fair elections," said Judge Johann Kriegler.

Mr. De Klerk said Friday that despite the failed foreign mediation, the four-way talks with King Goodwill should continue. The king has said, however, that the question of the monarchy cannot be separated from the impasse keeping rejetionist Inkatha out of the transition to majority rule.

"We are all concerned at the break up of mediation. This brings to the fore the importance of continued negotiations with regard to the Zulu monarchy," Mr. De Klerk said in Pretoria.

He told reporters a task group, formed to look into King Goodwill's position, had produced a joint document which the government, ANC, Inkatha and King Goodwill were considering.

ANC officials said they did not hold out much hope that Mr. Buthelezi would agree to the new terms offering the king wide constitutional powers but a four-way summit was possible next week if progress was made. "As we found with the mediation terms... Inkatha negotiators agreed with them, but Mr. Buthelezi rejected them. This is the problem we are faced with," said one.

Despite the unrest, the chairman of the independent electoral commission running the election, said he was confident that voting would be largely unhindered. "Notwithstanding the flaws in our society we can produce substantially

Both he and Mr. Mandela repeated pledges made frequently in the last few months that they would revive the economy and address South Africa's twin crises of unemployment and housing. But both were anxious to put across a message of reconciliation.

In a gesture towards the end of the debate, witnessed by a television audience of millions, Mr. Mandela reached across and clutched Mr. De Klerk's hand, saying: "I am proud to hold your hand."

Meanwhile, for the first time in their lives, blacks gathered in the lounge of the YWCA ball in Soweto could watch one of their leaders publicly debate a white president.

And when the globally televised exchange ended, they applauded and cheered, convinced Nelson Mandela had shown the future to anyone who doubted that white rule would end in less than two weeks.

"From now, since we watched that television, I think things will change for our country," said a grinning Mark Ndlovu, 54, a manager at the YWCA centre in the Soweto black township. "We've been oppressed for so many years. At last, we hope something will change."

It was a final step in the ascension of Mr. Mandela from saboteur jailed for 27 years to the man expected to be South Africa's first black president after the vote.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gunmen kill Belfast woman

BELFAST (AP) — The Ulster Freedom Fighters, a Protestant-based paramilitary group, said Friday its gunmen killed a 33-year-old Belfast woman. Gunmen threw a brick through a window at Theresa Clinton's house late Thursday night. As she moved to the window the gunmen sprayed the house with gunfire, police said. Her husband, James, and their two daughters, who were upstairs at the time, were not harmed. The Ulster Freedom Fighters said their target was Mr. Clinton, who is a member of Sinn Fein, the legal political party which supports the Irish Republican Army.

Senate passes French language bill

PARIS (R) — The French Senate has passed a controversial bill to erect barriers around the French language to stop a flood of English words and keep it alive in the technological age. The bill, sometimes mocked at home and abroad as a vain bid to turn a tide by decree, will make it illegal to use foreign words in public announcements and compulsory to let French people use their own language in seminars within the country. Although it does not name the offending invader language, the bill is clearly aimed at English, often accused of expanding aggressively in culture and trade and adulterating French into "Franglais." Sanctions, to be fixed later, are certain to include fines and loss of public subsidies. But, in a business-minded exception, it will not apply to selling French goods abroad. Part of a government offensive to keep French alive in the modern, technological world dominated by English, the bill adds up to a drive to protect French culture and expand La Francophonie — the club of French-speaking countries.

Thais deny latest Cambodian charge

BANGKOK (R) — The Thai military Friday denied suggestions from Cambodia that Khmer Rouge guerrillas launched tank attacks on Cambodian government forces from Thai territory. The charges by Cambodia's deputy chief of general staff, General Nheak Bun Chhay, carried in news reports published here Friday, were the latest in a series of bitter Cambodian accusations that Thailand still maintains links with the guerrillas. "That's impossible," armed forces spokesman Lieutenant-General Anusorn Krishnarern told reporters when asked about the tank charge. "Tanks are big, it's impossible to hide them in Thailand and send them to Cambodia. If we were to do that, we would be condemned by the international community," he said.

China to seek reassurances from C. Asia on separatism, Islam

BEIJING (Agencies) — Premier Li Peng is preparing to visit China's Central Asian neighbours next week to seek assurances they will not support the simmering separatism and Islamic fundamentalism already rooted in China's far west.

Mr. Li begins Monday a 12-day visit to Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Mongolia, taking up travel plans made for May 1993 but postponed after he fell ill with heart problems.

The key issue for China is to make sure developing national and religious sentiment in Central Asia does not spill across its own borders.

"Beijing wants stability in Central Asia and supports Russian intervention to secure it," said one Asian diplomat.

"Beijing wants secular governments in these countries and strongly opposes Islamic fundamentalism, for the effect it could have on its own large Muslim population," he said.

A recent study by the China Academy of Social Sciences said opening of the country's Western borders since the five Central Asian countries became independent in 1991 has promoted economic, cultural and political exchanges.

"But enemy forces and

separatist elements living abroad, under the pretext of nationalism, religion and human rights have attacked the relations among Chinese races and social stability," it said.

It said those most liable to provocation were the country's nearly 10 million Muslims because their religion and living style was the most different from China's other races.

Chinese minority populations — including Uighurs, Kazakhs, Tatars and Tajiks — have long been restive under Beijing's rule and have periodically flared into open opposition.

This occurred again last year in a handful of incidents in Kashgar and Urumqi, in the western region of Xinjiang bordering the Central Asian state. Government buildings and military vehicles were attacked.

Meanwhile, the Dalai Lama urged the United States Thursday to use economic pressure to encourage China to make improvements in human rights.

Backing down to the Chinese government would discourage intellectuals and students who "eventually will bring democracy to China," the exiled leader of Tibet told reporters after addressing the Hawaiian legislature.

"It is my hope and prayer that the spirit of this harmony could be extended and enjoyed by other parts of the world," he said.

Analysts said the decision, which came after a meeting of top security officials, represented a major concession by South Korea and might open the way for a diplomatic resolution of the prolonged crisis over the North's nuclear programme.

The North's refusal to allow full access to secret nuclear facilities prompted the U.N. Security Council to issue a statement on March 31 urging Pyongyang to allow inspections.

Pyongyang, denying Western charges it is developing nuclear arms, has repeated threats of another war on the peninsula if it is pushed too far.

The two Koreas had on-off



African National Congress President Nelson Mandela (left) and South African President F.W. De Klerk shake hands prior to a television debate which was televised internationally in Johannesburg (AFP photo)

5 renegade MPs leave Japan's LDP

TOKYO (R) — Five renegade lawmakers resigned from the once-dominant Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Friday in a move that could spark new defections and reduce severely the strength of Japan's biggest political party.

"We have handed in our resignations to LDP Headquarters," said former State Minister Michihiko Kano, one of five LDP faction led by ex-Trade Minister Hiroshi Mitsuoka.

"We want a role in political realignment... and plan to appeal to pro-reformers in the LDP to join us in creating a new group," said Mr. Kano, who like the other four is from an LDP faction led by ex-Trade Minister Hiroshi Mitsuoka.

The five pro-reformers, who plan to form their own group, said their action was not connected to a bid by LDP baron Michio Watanabe to launch a splinter party.

The defections from the LDP are the latest in a wave that began with separate revolts in mid-1993 by prominent politicians Ichiro Ozawa and Masayoshi Takemura, leaders of two LDP splinter parties that now dominate the current ruling coalition.

They could be followed soon by Mr. Watanabe, head of a 50-strong LDP faction, and his

supporters, the veteran politician told reporters earlier Friday he was seriously considering launching a new party in hopes of becoming prime minister.

After failing to muster a majority in general elections in July 1993, the scandal-tainted LDP was forced to give up its 38-year grip on power and move to the opposition bench. It still remains the largest political party.

Mr. Ozawa and Mr. Takekura wooed popular reform crusader Morihiko Hosokawa and his Japan New Party to join centrists and left-wingers to create an eight-way coalition to take over.

Ironically, scandal allegations forced Mr. Hosokawa to resign as prime minister suddenly last week. That sparked a bitter power struggle among onetime allies Mr. Ozawa and Mr. Takekura, who have gone separate ways over policy matters.

Speculation is now rife that the coalition could split over the succession issue and begin scrambling to create new alliances to muster enough strength to form a government.

Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata is a frontrunner at this point but feuding coalition partners have been unable to make a clear-cut decision.

NHK public television said another LDP group, pro-reformers under former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, would meet Friday to discuss leaving the conservative party.

It was unclear how many of the 50 or so lawmakers in Mr. Watanabe's faction would join their leader in leaving the LDP. News reports estimated anywhere from a dozen to 30 might go.

Yet Mr. Watanabe's ally, former Yasuhiro Nakasone, was less than enthusiastic about talks of uniting. "I think we should be very careful before making a final decision," he said.

Mr. Watanabe began moves to break away after the LDP refused earlier this week to endorse him as its official candidate in the parliamentary vote. Twice in the past, the veteran politician has bid unsuccessfully for the premiership.

LDP chief Yohei Kono was due to meet Mr. Watanabe in hopes of reining him in, although prospects for success looked slim.

Coalition representatives were also due to resume efforts in the afternoon to iron out their differences over policy and the nomine for prime minister.

Spanish official sacked for insulting nun

MADRID (R) — A diamond may be a girl's best friend, but a diamond-studded necklace designed by Harry Winston was an auctioneer's dream, bringing a record \$4,402,500. The necklace, with 168 diamonds weighing a total of 239 carats, sold at a Sotheby's auction to an anonymous buyer. Sotheby's said it was the most paid for a necklace at an auction, exceeding the previous record of \$3,52 million for a necklace sold in New York in 1989. "That's the right price. Just the fact that you can sell that in this market is quite a feat," said Sotheby's auctioneer and Executive Vice President John Block.

British child pornography library found

LONDON (R) — British police have seized a child pornography library stored in a university computer that could be linked to 160 countries. A 25-year-old research associate being questioned by police admitted operating the archive and publishing the material worldwide, a police spokesman said. Thousands of still colour pictures of children as young as two were found stored on computer discs at Birmingham University in central England. Police said they could be accessed through the Internet Communications Network, available to academic institutions, government departments and businesses across the world.

Meanwhile, North Korea marked Friday the 82nd birthday of Kim Il-Sung, state founder and deified "great leader," in muted fashion, as the ministry considers that the treatment meted out by Alvaro Ozores was not in keeping with his responsibilities and correct, diplomatic procedures," said the statement released late Tuesday.

Mr. Ozores apologized for his remark in a letter sent to the ministry. He said it was possible that "after so many calls, I gave an improper response as a result of the tiredness caused by the situation."

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Chief Inspector Keith Bassett said: "There are 160 countries which access this system."

Twenty million people can access it, whether in Brazil or Bombay." The Federal Bureau of Investigation tipped off British police after U.S. authorities "hacked" into the archive. Police did not say when the operator had not made any money from the pornography.

Nude skiing banned at resort

CRESTED BUTTE, Colorado (R) — Nude skiing will not be allowed again at the Crested Butte ski resort, vow resort officials. About 40 male and female skiers, apparently celebrating the end of the ski season and the start of spring, skied down slopes without clothing on April 3, Easter Sunday. Later, some went to a mid-mountain bar, the Paradise Warming House, for drinks. Parents with children who saw the nude skiers complained. After talking with police, resort officials decided nude skiers will definitely not be allowed next season.

Drinkers beware of that 'one for the sidewalk'

ATLANTA (R) — U.S. health officials said pedestrians account for 14 per cent of all U.S. motor vehicle-related deaths and many of the victims were drunk when they died. In most U.S. states, drivers are considered legally drunk if their blood alcohol levels are .10 or greater. Although there are no statutory levels of drunkenness for pedestrians killed in traffic accidents, the study said a drunken pedestrian was one with a blood-alcohol level of .10. In 1992, 5,546 pedestrians were killed in motor vehicle accidents, and 96,000 were injured, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

Diamond necklace fetches world auction record

NEW YORK (R) — A diamond may be a girl's best friend, but a diamond-studded necklace designed by Harry Winston was an auctioneer's dream, bringing a record \$4,402,500. The necklace, with 168 diamonds weighing a total of 239 carats, sold at a Sotheby's auction to an anonymous buyer. Sotheby's said it was the most paid for a necklace at an auction, exceeding the previous record of \$3,52 million for a necklace sold in New York in 1989. "That's the right price. Just the fact that you can sell that in this market is quite a feat," said Sotheby's auctioneer and Executive Vice President John Block.

Spanish official sacked for insulting nun

MADRID (R) — A Spanish official was sacked after he told a distraught nun who phoned his ministry seeking information about colleagues trapped in Rwanda: "We are not here to look for lost tuns in the jungle." A statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Alvaro Ozores had been sacked and faced disciplinary procedures for his response to a call from a member of the missionary Sisters of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Sister Dolores Garcia phoned the ministry to ask for urgent help for three nuns trapped in a hospital at Kibuye, in Rwanda. She lodged a complaint after Mr. Ozores brushed her off. "The treatment meted out by Alvaro Ozores was not in keeping with his responsibilities and correct, diplomatic procedures," said the statement released late Tuesday.

Mr. Ozores apologized for his remark in a letter sent to the ministry. He said it was possible that "after so many calls, I gave an improper response as a result of the tiredness caused by the situation."

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Sports

China forms professional league

BEIJING (R) — China has announced the formation of its first professional club soccer league which it hopes will improve the nation's chances of qualifying for the World Cup.

"Our aim, according to the plan, is to enter the World Cup by the end of this century," said China Football Association (CFA) Chairman Wang Junsheng, adding with a smile: "But it will take us quite a long time to win it."

CFA officials told a news conference that the 12-club league would open April 17 and the season would run until Nov. 13.

The league will be sponsored

by a cigarette company and most clubs will receive financial support from local companies. In the past central and local government have paid players' salaries.

"We are reforming our soccer by moving to a market system with the aim of raising standards and reaching the world level as soon as possible," said Wang.

To the dismay of millions of fans, China failed to qualify for this year's World Cup finals in the United States and did not even reach the last Asian qualifying round.

Soccer is the most popular sport in China and television

regularly shows English, Italian and German leagues matches as well as local games.

The 12 league clubs will each be allowed to sign five foreign players, although no more than three can play in a match.

Four Russian players have already signed contracts, three for Shanghai Shenhua and one for Shenyang, which also has a Russian trainer.

"We hope more foreigners will play in our league," Wang said. "Perhaps we will have to wait until South American and European players come to China. We want to emulate the methods used by soccer clubs in advanced countries."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cardamone retains Euro boxing title

VITORIA, Spain (R) — Agostino Cardamone from Italy retained his European middleweight boxing title by beating France's Gino Lefong on points over 12 rounds late Thursday. Cardamone, 28, proved his superiority early in the bout, fending him off with his powerful left-hand and using swift right-hand jabs to demolish his slower opponent. The judges decision was unanimous, with the final scores 120-111, 119-111 and 120-112.

Olympic champion Curry dead from AIDS

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, England (AP) — Former Olympic and world champion figure skater John Curry died Friday from an AIDS-related illness, his agent said. He was 44. Curry was diagnosed as having the HIV virus in 1987. He returned home in 1991 from the United States after being told he had full-blown AIDS. Curry won the Olympic gold medal and world championships in 1976.

Milan sell Papin to Bayern Munich

MILAN, Italy (R) — French international striker Jean Pierre Papin will move to Bayern Munich next season from AC Milan, the Italian soccer champions have announced. Milan's managing director Adriano Galliani said Papin, 30, had signed a two-year contract with Bayern worth 5.5 million marks (\$3.2 million). The Germans are currently on course for a record 13th league title.

Senna takes provisional pole position

AJDA, Japan (AP) — Ayrton Senna of Brazil took the provisional pole position Friday to his Williams-Renault on the first day of qualifying for the Pacific Grand Prix. Senna, who ranked No. 2 in last year's overall drivers' title, rounded the 3,702-metre T-1 Circuit in 1 minute, 10.218 seconds, averaging 189.8 kilometres per hour. Michael Schumacher of Germany, who won this year's opening race in Brazil last month, was just 0.222 second behind Senna in his Benetton-Ford. Senna's teammate Damon Hill, a Briton, followed Schumacher at 1:10.771. The race is the first Formula-One competition for the T-1 Circuit in Aida, in Okayama prefecture in western Japan and the first of two races scheduled in Japan this year. Japan Grand Prix is scheduled in Suzuka in late October.

Christie says can run 9.80

BONN (R) — Olympic 100 metres champion Linford Christie of Britain says he is capable of breaking Carl Lewis's world record twice this summer, lowering the mark to 9.80 seconds. In an interview published in the current edition of Leichtathletik, Germany's weekly athletics magazine, Christie says he is sure he will break the world record twice, "first 9.85 seconds, then 9.80." Lewis set the world record of 9.86 seconds when he won the world championship in Tokyo Aug. 25, 1991. "That record is long overdue to fall," said Christie. "I've trained like never before and set a European (60 metres) indoor record of 6.48 seconds. With that kind of form, the record is due this summer," he said. Christie also said he had "a score to settle" with the American.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANAH HIRSCH
1993 ©Cineplex Odeon Services Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ
Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦K1Q3 ♦7 52 ♠AK6542 ♣7

The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♦ 1♦ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—You have a good hand, but don't lose sight of the fact you have little in the way of support for partner's suit. Also, since partner didn't make a second-round change of bidding four cards apart, support are slight. Bid two diamonds and see what, if anything, develops. Partner can pass, since your bid isn't forcing.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦K1Q3 ♦8 ♠97542 ♠A653

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♦ Pass 1 NT Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—The expert bid is two spades. Since you didn't bid one spade over one heart, that can't be a real suit. It shows values in spades, a maximum no-trump response and an excellent fit for diamonds. You can switch to bid one spades by partner, be cautious with a raise to three diamonds—a jump to four diamonds would bypass three no trump.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦K1Q3 ♦8 ♠97542 ♠A653

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♦ Pass 1 NT Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—This hand has become decidedly slamistic. You have control of both black suits, a singleton in partner's first-bid suit and five-card support for the second. An advance cue-bid of four clubs is called for, showing first-round club control.

Haiti athletes threaten suicide

PORTE OF SPAIN, Trinidad (R) — Haitian football players have threatened to kill themselves if they are not granted asylum in the United States, a team spokesman said Thursday. The 18-man team, accompanied by five officials, came to Trinidad last week for the finals of the Shell Caribbean Cup. They have since been eliminated from the competition.

Early Thursday the players turned up at the American embassy, but their applications for visas were rejected. Ears Jean-Baptiste told a local television station the athletes would be risking their lives if they tried to return home.

David Robinson scored 31 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Spurs, who lost for the fifth time in their last six games.

In Orlando, Larry Johnson scored 31 points and the Charlotte Hornets held off a furious fourth-quarter rally to defeat the Orlando Magic, 112-108.

Alonzo Mourning added 17 points, including a key baseline

Knicks win their 2nd Atlantic Division title

WASHINGTON (R) — Rolando Blackman scored five points in the final 1:01, including a go-ahead three-pointer, as the New York Knicks clinched their second straight Atlantic Division title with a 111-106 victory over the Washington Bullets Thursday.

Patrick Ewing led the Knicks with 33 points, including a running bank shot with 6.2 seconds left that sealed the win for New York.

The Knicks snapped a three-game losing streak and won for the second time in six games since winning 15 in a row.

New York also moved into a tie with Atlanta for the best record in the Eastern Conference at 53-23.

Don MacLean scored 23 points to lead the Bullets, who lost for the 13th time in 16 games and fell to 22-34 on the season.

At Utah, Karl Malone scored 23 points and Felton Spencer added a season-high 22-points and 17 rebounds as the Utah Jazz completed their first-ever season-sweep of the San Antonio Spurs with a 101-90 victory.

The Jazz have won four straight games, and moved to within two games of Phoenix in the battle for fourth place in the Western Conference.

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Salem wins Kharrane Race

By Munem Fakhouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Abdul Fattah Amman rode his Jood to victory on Friday in the first Desert Castles Ride (Al Kharrane Castle Endurance Ride), which was attended by His Majesty King Hussein, who presented trophies to the winners.

His Royal Highness Princess Alia gave the start signal at 8 a.m. at the Alia Gateway Hotel, launching the 55-kilometre race which witnessed fierce competition among the 58 participants till the end with some of them failing to reach the finish line for various reasons.

Mr. Salem, of the Royal Stables, completed the two-stage race in two hours, 36 seconds. He was followed by Hani Bisharat of the Arabian Horse Club who was riding Sari. Mr. Bisharat's timing was 2 hours, 1 min., 23 seconds.

The prize of the best rider and the best horse went to the Royal Polo Club's Abdulla Daoud and his horse Sarab, who were ninth in the overall standings.

Her Royal Highness Princess Iman Bint Al Hussein, who participated in the junior class, managed to complete the race along with the other seven starters in the class.

King Hussein expressed his satisfaction over the organisation of the race and said the idea of holding such activities was commendable.

"We encourage our youth to have an interest in horses because equestrian sports are the sports of our fathers and forefathers," the King said, noting that the Arab history was linked to horsemanship and horses.

Also Princess Alia, who played a key role in organising the race, thanked all those who contributed to its success.



His Majesty King Hussein on Friday presents trophies to winners of the Desert Castle Ride which was held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein (below) who gave the start signal for the race (photos by Abdullah Ullayan)



"I am looking forward to having this race as an Arab and international event in the future," said the Princess.
Attending the race, the first of its kind organised by Royal Jordanian Arabian Horse Association, were also Their Royal Highnesses Princess Aisha and Princess Haya, Deputy Prime Minister Maan Abu Nuwwar, Public Security Department (PSD) Director Maj.-Gen. Abdul Rahman Al Edwan, other senior officials and large crowds of spectators. Following are the final standings of the race:
1- Abdul Fattah Salem of the Royal Stables riding Sari
2- Tareq Abdul Latif of the Royal Stables riding Albing
3- Abdulla Daoud and his horse Sarab
4- Mohammad Ali of the Royal Racing Club riding Mawes
5- Suleiman Musa of the Royal Racing Club riding Al Murab
6- Ahmad Al Daham of the Royal Equestrian Club riding Latif
7- Abdullah Al Daoud of the Royal Polo Club riding Sarah
8- Haitham Mohammad of the Aqaba Equestrian Club riding Rahwan.



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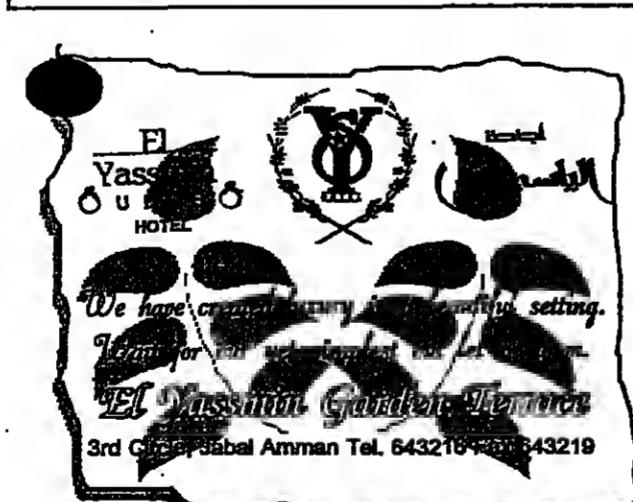
- Quiet location in western Amman (5th Circle, 6th Circle, Abdoun, Al Rabieh, Al Sweifieh...).
- New or recently refurbished.
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Photography Contest
on
"Faces of Jordan"

The American Center invites amateur and professional photographers to participate in a photography contest entitled "Faces of Jordan." Photographs should be of people; up to three entries per person.

Photographs may be of any size, in colour or in black and white, mounted on boards. Closing date for submission of entries is April 25. For more information call 820-101, ext. 2579.

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AGRICULTURAL PROFESSIONAL NEEDED

An American consulting firm, in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture will be conducting a series of studies related to the implementation of agricultural policies of Jordan, and is seeking expressions of interest from individuals who are senior professionals with extensive experience in agricultural research & extension as related to institutional capabilities to carry out these policies. Services will be required on a part-time basis during the approximate period of mid April, 1994, through mid August, 1994. Interested individuals should have excellent writing skills in English and Arabic and should have experience with a large professional international team.

Interested parties should submit their current CVs in English to the administration assistant at the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer/Technical Assistance and Services Office (TASO), P.O.Box 283 Baqee', Amman - Jordan, no later than 14:00 hours on April 16, 1994.

CONCORD '1'
MR. JONES
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
CONCORD '2'
FOREVER YOUNG
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

AMMOUN THEATRE
The grand opening of Amoun Theatre April 20 1994 Political comedy
Forbidden X Forbidden

Look out for the surprise in the coming play

PLAZA
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre

AHIAN THEATRE
Two more weeks before the performances of the political comedy "Ahian Arab Summit Conference" Come to an end

PHILADELPHIA
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

AMMOUN THEATRE
The grand opening of Amoun Theatre April 20 1994 Political comedy
Forbidden X Forbidden

Lebanon detains pro-Iraqis after Suheil assassination

BEIRUT (AP) — The army grabbed 12 pro-Iraqi activists in house raids across South Lebanon on Friday as the Beirut government remained locked in a standoff with Iraq following the assassination of a prominent Iraqi dissident.

Military sources said leaders of an outlawed pro-Saddam Hussein wing of the Arab Socialist Baath Party were seized in the pre-dawn raids in the city of Sidon and other southern Lebanese towns.

Among those detained were the party's former leader Hassan Ghorrab and lawyer Nimeh Jamil, both Shiite Muslims, the sources said. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

Lebanon, which is under Syria's undisputed influence, last year outlawed the pro-Iraqi Baath wing, which had roots among Sunni and Shiite Muslims in northern and southern Lebanon.

Syria, which has 40,000 troops stationed in Lebanon as peacekeepers, is governed by a rival Baath party faction headed by President Hafez Al Assad.

The sources said the move against Iraqi-aligned Baathists was a precaution against renewal of pro-Saddam sentiment at a time two Iraqi embassy diplomats were held in Beirut in connection with the assassination of Sheikh Taleb Ali Al Suheil.

Suheil, 64, identified as a key figure in a plot against President Saddam last year, was shot to death at his apartment in Beirut's Ain Al Tineh residential neighbourhood Tuesday night.

Lebanon has formally asked Iraq to lift the diplomatic im-

munity of two of its Beirut diplomats so they can be prosecuted in the assassination.

Foreign Minister Faris Bouez said the Iraqis were caught red-handed. But the Iraqi government denied that either of the two diplomats, in solitary confinement in Lebanese police custody, did anything that violated their diplomatic status and demanded their release.

Both were arrested in front of the Iraqi embassy in east Beirut's Hazmieh residential district shortly after Suheil's murder. They are Mohammad Kazem Faris, 37, the cultural attaché, and Khaled Alwan Khalaf, 35, the embassy's commercial attaché.

Lebanon also has demanded the Iraqi embassy hand over a third Iraqi, Hadi Hassan, the alleged assassin who is believed to be hiding in the embassy compound.

Lebanese examining Magistrate Abdullah Bitar has concluded after interrogating the detained diplomats that they were agents of Iraq's intelligence service who carried out Suheil's assassination at direct orders from Baghdad, authorities have said.

They said Iraqi Consul Ali Sultan Darwish, who allegedly is chief intelligence officer at the embassy, also was wanted for interrogation on suspicion of being the overall mastermind of the assassination.

Mr. Bitar on Friday formally accused a Lebanese Armenian, George Teredjian, of complicity in Mr. Suheil's murder, and ordered him held in solitary confinement, too, Mr. Bitar's office reported.

A statement said Mr. Teredjian

Russia gets most of Black Sea fleet

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine signed an agreement on Friday giving Russia the bulk of the prized Black Sea fleet, ITAR-TASS reported.

The two leaders, who met one on one after the meeting of leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), agreed that Russia would get 80 per cent of the ships, the news agency said.

Russia and Ukraine have squabbled over ownership of the fleet of 440 ships — many of them small and in poor condition — since the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

The agreement signed Friday night calls for the Russian Black Sea fleet and the Ukrainian navy to have separate bases.

Details on the division of the fleet are to be worked out in the next 10 days, ITAR-TASS said.

Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Kravchuk also agreed to prepare a draft friendship and cooperation treaty between the two

countries. Mr. Yeltsin accepted Mr. Kravchuk's invitation to visit Ukraine in the near future.

The agreement showed the leaders' determination to back away from a brewing crisis between the two most powerful of the former Soviet republics, both of which have nuclear weapons.

Earlier Friday, a flotilla of Russian-controlled warships had taken to sea as a result of the latest conflict over the fleet.

"We know at least nine ships have left their moorings, but we don't know whether they are just training or are preparing to start a war," Mikola Savenko, spokeswoman for the Ukrainian navy in Sevastopol, told the Associated Press.

Russian officials said the ships were starting ordinary training exercises unrelated to tensions between the two countries.

The Interfax and ITAR-TASS news agencies said the flotilla numbered 15 vessels, including 12 that left Black Sea

ports on Friday.

Mr. Savenko claimed Russian officers had not informed their Ukrainian partners in the fleet's operational command what movements the vessels would make.

"All we know is they are fully equipped with weapons, in a state of battle readiness, and could start a war if they so decide," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin had declined to give his views on the conflict before the start of his private talks with Mr. Kravchuk, telling reporters: "Let us not complicate things before the meeting. The situation is complex anyway."

Mr. Kravchuk, in a harsh comment, claimed the entire fleet was Russian.

"How can Russia view the Black Sea fleet otherwise if it has fully financed it since September 1993? Therefore I state unequivocally that the Black Sea fleet, even by its means of existence, is Russian," he said.

Jackson urges quick implementation of Israel-PLO accord

WASHINGTON (USA) — Reverend Jesse Jackson, who just returned from the Middle East, is urging Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir Arafat to meet at the negotiating table and work out together a quick implementation of the declaration of principles.

The U.S. civil rights activist met with Israeli and Palestinian leaders as well as Christian, Jewish and Muslim religious leaders while in Israel and the occupied territories April 7-13. Mr. Jackson briefed reporters on his trip during a press conference Thursday, sponsored by the Arab American Institute.

Mr. Jackson said he spoke daily with Mr. Arafat and the Israeli leadership while he was in the region, "urging them to get back to the table."

He stressed his belief that Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat must themselves meet and work out the remaining obstacles to implementing the declaration of principles and called on President Bill Clinton to facilitate such a meeting.

"A new framework for peace — the declaration of principles — has been signed... this framework must now be made finished," he said. This task, he stressed, "must not be left in the hands of bureaucrats."

"The primary forces have to meet... The new option of peace is real. We must not lose time to cynics and saboteurs," Mr. Jackson said.



Jesse Jackson

the name of their God they must renounce terrorism. All parties have to choose to stop killing each other."

On the Palestinian side, Mr. Jackson said fundamental decisions must be made in the coming days by the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian masses. "The Palestinians, he said, must decide whether to follow a policy of "getting even" or getting ahead."

Mr. Jackson made clear what path he believes the Palestinians must follow: "Getting ahead ultimately has more advantages than getting even." The policy of "getting even" will not yield freedom, he stressed.

Asked to comment on the Islamic opposition's argument against the accord with Israel, Mr. Jackson said "the opposition may have a strong argument, but they have nothing to show for their arguments."

"Their argument is "all or nothing" — they will get nothing now. Reiterating anger and hatred towards Israel is not a solution."

Violence has been used as a means of gaining freedom, he said, and "it failed." Peace, Mr. Jackson said, "is the only bearer of fruit."



HORSE RACE: A scene from a 55-kilometre horse race held near Amman on Friday. His Majesty King Hussein presented trophies to the winners. Several members of the Royal family took part in the race (see page 9)

Palestinian economic council ready to roll with 'board of executives'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has completed recruiting a "board of executives" for a council that will take charge of the economic aspects of Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories, PLO officials said Friday.

Once formally installed in office, the "board of executives" will meet one of the key demands of international donors and the World Bank which have been pressing the PLO for "credible" Palestinian institutions to channel aid to support the Palestinian self-rule envisaged under the Sept. 13 accord between Israel and the PLO.

The executives will take direct charge of the nitty-gritty details of economy, such as customs and tariffs, taxation, social security, currency and monetary affairs as well as other aspects of financial administration of the occupied territories under the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR).

In essence, PECDAR is expected to be the Palestinian ministry of finance in the occupied territories pending final-status negotiations with Israel after the interim period as stipulated in the Sept. 13 accord.

The PLO officials said a PECDAR committee selected the executives, who will in effect be heads of departments, who had responded to advertisements in Jordan, Tunisia and the occupied territories.

Many of the interviews were conducted in Amman early this month, they said.

The names of the successful candidates have been forwarded to the PLO leadership, and we are now awaiting approval from Tunis, where the PLO is headquartered.

Several other members who are professional economists have complained that Arafat loyalists rather than people with expertise dominate the council.

We have to start from scratch in the occupied territories," Dr. Naji said, referring to the almost total absence of self-supporting economic structure in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

There was no official explanation for the postponement of their return, but it could be linked to a decision by Mr. Arafat to close 27 PLO offices in the West Bank and Gaza.

Israelis round up young Palestinians

30 expellees and fugitives to return next week

TUNIS (AP) — Israel has agreed to let 17 Palestinian fugitives join about 30 expellees expected to return to the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank next week, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sources said Friday.

They will be the second group of Palestinians allowed to return to their homeland under agreements worked out between Israel and the PLO in talks aimed at establishing limited Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories. The first group of nearly 30 expellees and fugitives returned April 6.

The fugitives had been activists in the intifada that has gripped the occupied territories since December 1987. They will be coming from different countries of refuge including Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt, said the sources.

Some of the fugitives are wanted for attacks on Israelis while others have been sought for killing Palestinians suspected of collaborating with the Israelis.

PLO officials would not release their names for publication for fear of reprisal from families of the suspected Palestinian collaborators who were killed.

Since Israel occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip after the 1967 Middle East war, activists have killed hundreds of Palestinians accused of spying on their fellow Arabs or of collaborating with the occupation forces.

Alram Hanjeh, who was expelled in 1987 for his anti-Israeli activities, is among those being allowed to return. He told the Associated Press he expected to be in the West Bank town of Ramallah next week.

Mr. Hanjeh helped organize the intifada from exile in Tunis and is the most prominent PLO leader to be allowed to return to the West Bank.

His return is expected to help shore up Yasser Arafat's sinking credibility among the Palestinians and pave the way for the PLO leader's move to the territories after Israel's withdrawal.

However, Mr. Arafat has delayed the return of two other key aides whom Israel has said can go home, Jibril Al Rajoub and Mohammad Dahlan.

Mr. Rajoub is Mr. Arafat's security aide in Tunis and an adviser for West Bank affairs. Mr. Dahlan is responsible for Fatah organisation in Gaza and is with the PLO negotiations team in Cairo.

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Israel promised to endorse by Sunday the final list of names in the second batch of returnees, who were expected to head home within days of the endorsement.

"Each suicide attacker who succeeds produces the next suicide attacker," said analyst Avi Fishman, writing in the mass-circulation Maariv daily.

Clerics from Hamas and its offshoot, Islamic Jihad, use the attacks to appeal to more youths to carry out such missions. Most recruits have already turned to religion as the only escape from chronic unemployment and the occupation.

Suicide attackers are given elaborate memorial ceremonies designed to add glamour to death in the otherwise desolate shantytowns of the Gaza Strip or agricultural villages in the West Bank that lack basic amenities like clinics, telephones and even electricity.

Fier speakers urge spectators to follow in the footsteps of the dead man as a way to please God and enjoy his glory. Aside from a martyr gaining a seat near God in paradise, speakers stress material rewards ranging from 70 wives to endless banquets.

As Ramzi Abu Kheir, an 18-year-old attending one recent Gaza rally said, a martyr "has everything we don't have."

Most believe that unless Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat can produce development and jobs under autonomy to reverse this sense of hopelessness, Gaza will keep producing men willing to die, for the cause.

COLUMN

Hillary gets award, Trudeau gets egg

NYORK (R) — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton received a humanitarian award Thursday evening, but it was actress and singer Barbra Streisand who got much of the attention, showing up with former beau Pierre Trudeau, the former Canadian Prime Minister. Mrs. Clinton was presented with the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity Award for her work with the nation's children, especially the poor. She was honoured at a dinner at the New York Public Library. But it was Ms. Streisand and Mr. Trudeau who had attracted much of the attention at the gala event. Ms. Streisand, who will begin a record-breaking tour of the United States and Britain soon, came to the event with her son, Sean. Complete planned.

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